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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Secretary Views Postwar Mideast Strategy

AU2302193291 Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 21 Feb 91 p 5

[Wladimir Beljakow report from Riyadh: "Hope for a Joint Peacekeeping Force and a Middle East Conference"]

[Text] At present, a strategy of postwar development in the Gulf region that would ensure its stability is widely discussed in the world, characteristically much more by the leaders of Western countries than by the states directly involved. Among those who have already developed specific ideas is Abdallah Bishara, a Kuwaiti and secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

As could be heard after the foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo, the organization plans to separate Saudi Arabia and Kuwait from Iraq with international forces after the end of the war. The secretary general stressed that these forces must not be soldiers of one state, not even of such a strong one as the United States. Abdallah Bishara thinks that the international forces must be established by a UN Security Council resolution and must be given the nature of UN peacekeeping forces. The main contingents of these troops should come from Islamic countries. A symbolic participation by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council would be desirable.

The countries of the Gulf region, the Kuwaiti politician says, want to expand their armed forces considerably and want to put them under a unified command in the long run. At a recent press conference in Riyadh, Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan, the commander of the Saudi forces, stated that Saudi Arabia has learned lessons from the current crisis. King Fahd has ordered the Army to be enlarged and its armament and its combat readiness to be improved.

In Abdallah Bishara's view, another important component of the security system in the region must be improving the relations of the Gulf states with Iran, particularly as Tehran's ideology and policy have become more flexible, which opens up favorable prospects. A first step on this path will be a contract on free navigation in the Gulf. There are still differences in opinion about the oil price, but these can be overcome. Last week the foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia, whose relations have been interrupted for three years, met in Geneva and agreed to work for the resumption of diplomatic relations.

"Of course, the questions of security in the region of the Persian Gulf cannot be separated from security in the Middle East as a whole," Abdallah Bishara stated. He predicted a considerable increase in international efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict as soon as the war will be over. Regarding a solution to the Palestinian problem, one may be optimistic. According to him, the war has damaged the U.S. prestige in the Islamic world to such an extent that, to correct this, Washington will have to take an important step, such as recognizing the national rights of the Palestinian people or even the establishment of an independent state. After the end of the war, the Gulf states will urge the convening of an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of all interested parties. In his view, solving the Arab-Israeli conflict would allow solving another task, which is extremely important for the region—namely liquidating all kinds of mass destruction weapons.

The secretary general of the GCC promised to clarify the attitude of the Gulf states on 5 March, when the foreign ministers of the group of six will meet again in Damascus and will present the document on the postwar structure of the order, which was discussed in Cairo, to the public.

Jordan Delegate Addresses Arab Parliamentary Union

NC2602202091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat delivered a speech on behalf of the Jordanian parliamentary delegation at the Arab Parliamentary Union meeting yesterday evening. He began by relaying the greetings of Jordan—its king, government, and people—to the people and leadership of fraternal Algeria, which offered 1 million martyrs and which has always stood on the side of its Arab and Islamic nation and its fateful just causes. He added: We are meeting today under the most difficult and critical circumstances engulfing the whole Arab nation and at a time when the options have become limited and when it has become rare for matters to be examined in a comprehensive and objective fashion.

The House speaker added: What is saddening and painful today is that most of the assumptions in which we believed regarding the need to achieve unity, cohesion, and independence and to refrain from accepting political, economic, social, cultural, and technological subservience have become hollow slogans that are not borne out by practice. He went on to say: Jordan's assessment of the course of events is that the vacuum created by the absence of the cold war between the East and the West is now being filled by attempts to bring about a new type of polarization in which the United States will be the master of the scene and Israel the sole beneficiary. Jordan's view regarding regional conflicts has always been that such conflicts should be resolved by the Arab community and through a consideration of common interests and a common understanding of issues by the very countries of the region concerned. We also believe that any internationalization of regional conflicts will inevitably expand this conflict beyond the Arab and Islamic realm and cause a polarization to take place.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Secretary General Leaves for Saudi Arabia

NC2202132391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1124 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], left Cairo this morning for Saudi Arabia following a two-day visit to Egypt during which he participated in the meetings of the ICO bureau held in Cairo yesterday to discuss the Gulf crisis and its consequences, as well as the establishment of peace in the region.

Dr. al-Ghabid was seen off at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Aziz Sayf al-Nasr.

Kuwaiti Amir's Comments Read at Islamic Conference

PM2202172991 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 22 Feb 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "In Address Delivered By Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on His Behalf, Country's Amir Says: We Reject Cease-Fire Before Withdrawal Starts"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the country's amir, has emphasized Kuwait's rejection of all initiatives aimed at securing a cease-fire without the Iraqi regime's commitment to and start of withdrawal from Kuwait and implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian [as published] issue.

His highness stressed that the ongoing war to liberate Kuwait represents a legitimate international effort in the face of Iraqi intransigence toward international appeals. It has come after the world, with all its institutions and officials, has exhausted all peaceful means to prompt the Iraqi regime to comply with the international will.

This came in his highness the amir's address delivered on his behalf by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the joint meeting of the member states of the 5th Islamic summit conference and the 19th Islamic conference of foreign ministers, held in Cairo yesterday.

In his address, his highness the amir said: "The Iraqi regime is remote from Islam and the spirit of its teachings, especially when we recall the destruction and killing to which the Muslim people of Iraq were exposed in a ferocious eight-year war with the Muslim people of Iran—a war into which the regime pushed them." The country's amir called for efforts to return the Palestinian issue to the forefront of world interests, especially as the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait have badly damaged that issue and reflected negatively on all the efforts made to realize a just and honorable solution to it. His highness the amir also called for cohesion, for elimination of the specter of division from the Islamic region, and for efforts to enable the Islamic Conference Organization to play its historic and vital role vis-a-vis the events and changes the world is experiencing. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Urges Security Council Cease-Fire Order

LD2702093691 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] A Palestinian official spokesman has called on the UN Security Council not to submit to the U.S. Administration and its plans and to exercise its powers to bring about an immediate cease-fire, not only in the Gulf but also in the entire Middle East and in Palestine.

In a statement following a meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis yesterday, the spokesman appealed to the UN Security Council permanent member countries, particularly the USSR, the nonaligned countries, the African and Islamic countries, and even the European countries, to work to end the bloodshed and halt this lunatic war and flagrant aggression and solve the remaining issues of the Gulf war in a spirit of harmony and fraternity.

The Palestinian spokesman affirmed that the continuation of the aggressive war on Iraq and its people, following Iraq's embarkation on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 660, constitutes the most dangerous situation facing the entire Arab nation and all parties and the honorable people in the world.

The spokesman added that the PLO was taken aback by the aggressive U.S. attitude which rejects the Soviet peace initiative and Iraq's embarkation on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 660 concerning withdrawal from Kuwait. He said that this attitude arouses many questions and exposes the mask behind which the United States and its allies are trying to hide. They did not declare the war for the sake of Kuwait or the Gulf states, but to strike at Iraq, aggress on its people, threaten the security of Iraqi territory, and destroy its economic, scientific, and military capabilities.

'Arafat Meets Bendjedid, Makes Statement on War

Condemns Continued Attacks

LD2602195691 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Mr. Chadli Bendjedid today received Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, who arrived in Algiers earlier today. While leaving the presidential office, Mr. 'Arafat made the following statement:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] Naturally, the most dangerous thing now is the Allied-NATO-American decision that revealed its ugly fangs. Despite the Iraqi withdrawal, which we hope will end today, the Americans and other

European voices, which supported them, have decided to continue the war. Therefore, as we previously said, the aim is not Kuwait or this family or that ruler, the aim is to hit Iraq and Iraqi military force. Regrettably, this force was hit by Arab funds. The aim is not Iraq, but the Arab force.

The imposition of the new American order, the order of subjugation, is aimed not at Iraq only, but at the entire region. This is what President Bush revealed in his declarations. He wants to establish his new order in this region. This is why I am saying, to the entire Arab nation, that this issue requires more than any time before a serious stand with Iraq, in order, at least, to end this crazy and destructive war which destroyed the entire Iraqi infrastructure. It is a revenge operation. It is not an operation aimed at implementing the UN resolution, as has been alleged, because what is going on goes beyond the UN resolutions.

The initiative announced yesterday by the Soviet Union has reached the Security Council. What matters now is the unity of all these efforts, be they Maghreban, or Soviet, or from the good Arab forces, or the good international forces including Islamic, or nonaligned ones, or from some European countries which are aware of their own interests, so that a cease-fire is implemented and a comprehensive peace is reached in the region. [end recording]

Sees 'Grave Siteation' in Gulf

NC2602201591 Paris AFP in English 2002 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Algiers, Feb 26 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said on Tuesday that "the grave situation in the Gulf is due to the U.S. decision to continue the war, despite the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait which is to end today."

Mr. 'Arafat, speaking to reporters after a meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, said that "the new American order does not only concern Iraq, but the entire Arab region," adding that "the Arab nation should mobilize itself more than ever beside Iraq to stop this crazy, destructive and vengeful war."

'Arafat Discusses Effect of War on Palestinians

Says U.S. Aims To Destroy Iraq

LD2702105891 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Algiers, 27 Feb (APS)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat gave an interview to Algerian television yesterday, Tuesday, in which he dwelt on the situation in the Middle East, mainly the Gulf war, and the cause of the Palestinian people.

Regarding the Gulf war and the current fighting waged by the U.S.-led allied forces against Iraq, president 'Arafat said: "Preparations were under way within the scope of the Soviet initiative. Bush, however, rejected this initiative. When he spoke with President Gorbachev, they were unable to reach an agreement on a withdrawal timeframe."

President 'Arafat added: "If Bush wanted reconciliation, he would have listened to the United Nations Security Council and to President Gorbachev." He indicated that: "This exposes the plan of the U.S. Administration and that of the allies: Their aim is not to liberate Kuwait but to target Iraq and harm the fundamental structure of the Iraqi people. As proof of this, U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle said that the United States came to the Gulf because of oil and to impose a new hegemony on the Arab nation."

President 'Arafat went on to say: "Stemming from this, I can recollect a saying by the pioneer of the Algerian renaissance, Abdelhamid Ben Badis, which reads as follows: The eye of the west is fixed on Tehran, its hand is in Dhahran, and its feet are in Oran."

President 'Arafat stated: "What I am saying here is that what is happening now in the Gulf is a new version of the Sykes-Picot plan, aimed at consolidating the Israeli presence. A few days before the United States and allies advanced in the Gulf region I showed Algerian television the map of Greater Israel."

President Yasir 'Arafat talked about the repercussions of the Gulf war on the Palestinian people. He warned against a new massacre against the Palestinian community living in Kuwait, similar to the massacre of Sabra and Shatila after his people left Beirut. He noted, on the other hand, that before the war this Palestinian community [in Kuwait] gave about $11 billion in support of the intifadah.

He said they cannot defeat the intifadah whatever they may do. The Palestinian people has never been stronger than it is today, adding that "I have full faith in the victory of the PLO." He concluded his interview by recalling the speech made by President Bendjedid two days ago, in which the latter said: "We should reconsider our calculations as an Arab nation vis-a-vis the future events on the Arab arena."

Praises Iraqi Staying Power

PM2502153491 Paris LE MONDE in French 24-25 Feb 91 p 6

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Michel Deure in Tunis on 22 February]

[Text] Tunis—[Deure] If there is a war, do you still think that Iraq will be able to hold out for "years" against the coalition forces?

['Arafat] With the bombing, the coalition forces played all their winning cards. The only card they still have is not a winning one. It is the card of a ground war. Faced with the same armaments in 1982, I held out for three

months over 9 square km in Beirut. Dug into fortifications, the Iraqi Army is ready to face all forms of combat, in the desert or the cities. It can hold out for a long time.

[Deure] Do you still believe in an Iraqi victory?

['Arafat] The coalition forces have been trying to destroy Iraq's infrastructure and potential for six weeks and have killed thousands of civilians. Nothing has been done by mistake. The aim was to break the Iraqis' morale. That is a mistake which might prove fatal, because the point of no return has now been reached, and Iraq no longer has anything to lose.

[Deure] Will it go as far as committing suicide?

['Arafat] In land battles, technological supremacy will not be enough. The soldiers will be face to face. You must remember the war with Iran. The Iraqis proved that they had the capability of tolerating large losses of human life. Is the same true of the coalition countries? Then there are the oil wells already on fire in Kuwait.

Has the West thought about the disaster which would take place if all the 400 oil wells, which are already mined, were set on fire too? Not only would Kuwait no longer exist, but the whole region would be seriously affected and the pollution, carried by the winds, could reach Japan, the Pacific, and as far as the American coasts.

[Deure] By siding with Iraq as you have done, are you not likely to lose a great deal?

['Arafat] This summer, during our meeting in Paris, Prime Minister Michel Rocard told me, as an intellectual and a socialist, that he was ashamed that his country had been a colonial country.

How can anybody think that a leader of a Palestinian and Arab liberation movement like me could accept the U.S. and European military presence on Arab territory?

[Deure] Europe seems to hold that against you, because Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos has reported the EEC's decision to freeze its relations with you.

['Arafat] We have not been informed of that decision. It is as a result of U.S. pressure that some Europeans are making irresponsible statements. Our contacts with the EEC are continuing at various levels.

[Deure] Were Pierre Mauroy's statements casting doubt on the PLO's status as the sole interlocutor representing the Palestinians also "irresponsible?"

['Arafat] We clarified matters with the French leadership after those statements, which constitute interference in the PLO's internal affairs. Coming from somebody who claims to be a socialist and a democrat, they are unacceptable.

[Deure] Are you still counting on Europe to help in finding a solution to the Palestinian problem?

['Arafat] Despite everything that is happening, Europe undoubtedly has a role to play, even if President Bush is now trying to usurp that role as well as Europe's independent decisionmaking power. That has already happened several times. For example, it was after U.S. pressures that, after the first two weeks of war, France also agreed to strike into Iraqi territory, thus overstepping the Security Council mandate.

Says U.S. Seeks Hegemony

LD2702030191 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Feb 91

["Exclusive" interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Jose Luis Durante, chief of the international affairs newsdesk of Spanish National Radio, "somewhere in Tunisia;" from the "Supplement 24 Hours" program, date not given—recorded; 'Arafat speaks in English with superimposed Spanish translation]

[Text] [Durante] Mr. 'Arafat, how do you think the world will be after the Gulf war? It seems that a new order will be established economically and politically.

['Arafat] A new order? What the U.S. Administration will end up implanting is a new system of slavery. They are thinking about a new Roman Empire. Nero burned Rome, but President Bush does not have the right to burn the Middle East. This will be a veritable catastrophe against us and will not only affect the Arab nation and the Middle East, but will be an international disaster in all fields. With this new order, panic will dominate the international economy. What kind of order do the United States and the West offer the Third World—slavery? This situation is inconceivable.

[Durante] In your opinion, then, will the United States remain in the region, or nominate a third country to represent it?

['Arafat] Now they are saying that they are coming to stay, but they had already announced this at the Arab summit in Baghdad last year in a document in which they pointed to the need to install themselves militarily in the Gulf. In the same document they said that any attempt to prevent this would be considered a threat. This document was a veritable ultimatum, and exposes the real nature of this war, not only against Iraq, but against the whole Arab nation. Europe can understand perfectly the wounds caused by a war, wounds and marks which remain between nations and peoples, in this case between the Third World and the West, and now these wounds will last a long, long time.

[Durante] What will be the future of the Palestinian cause after the firm support you have given Iraq, thereby pitting yourselves against the multinational coalition?

['Arafat] First of all, I should make it clear that it is the government and people of Iraq who are backing the Palestinian cause, especially by establishing for the first time the link between oil, the West's most important

factor in the region, and our holy places, Christian and Muslim, as well as the Palestinian cause.

[Durante] Do you not think that you have put yourself in a dangerous position of real political risk in having backed Iraq as you have?

['Arafat] Do you think that I, as leader of the PLO, as an Arab leader, will accept now or in the future the military presence of foreigners on Arab land? We have resisted and fought for a long time—a long time—in order not to have to endure any occupation. Europe knows much about this—it resisted the Nazis. So, do you think the Arabs will accept foreign soldiers on their land? We will definitely not accept the American occupation of our territory. We will reject the slavery which the United States and the West want to impose on us. The West has accepted the end of the cold war and is now launching itself against the Arab nation. There are problems in Kuwait and there are problems in Lebanon—why has the West not sent the armada to Israel to make it leave the occupied territories and fulfill the UN resolutions? Why has the West's armada not been sent to Cyprus or Lebanon, where there are very serious problems?

[Durante] But Mr. 'Arafat, does the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq resolve the problems of the region?

['Arafat] There were solutions for the problems of the region, Arab solutions, but the U.S. Administration exerted all the pressure it could to prevent the implementation of the Arab solutions. Now it is oil which is behind it. The United States' main aim is to control the oil, but the West must understand that our Christian and Muslim holy places in Palestine are much more important than oil. Moreover, we have the support of the peoples of the world opposed to war.

[Durante] But, Mr. Chairman, I must insist—what could the situation of the Palestinian cause be after this war?

['Arafat] It is clear. There will not be stability or peace or solutions if the rights of the Palestinians are trampled underfoot. We are not asking for the moon. While Israel, with the consent of the United States, continues its aggression against our people, there will not be peace or security.

[Durante] How will relations be between the PLO and Europe from now on, in your opinion?

['Arafat] Europe must remember that we are neighbors. We have been, we are, and we shall continue to be. I believe that the European Community should not blindly follow the orders of the United States. In the interest of all and in the interest of Europe itself, I believe that they should understand this message. If Europe does not assume its role, the United States will impose panic as the norm of international relations.

[Durante] Finally, Mr. 'Arafat, what shape, in your opinion, will the future Palestine take?

['Arafat] Sooner or later, Palestine will have its land. There will not be a greater Israel, the Israel that they want to create with the territories of other neighboring nations. Peaceful solutions will have to be sought. History is with us, we are moving with its current. Where is Attila? Where is Hitler? Where are all the invaders? They have all disappeared, but we will remain. This Palestine is our land. It is our future.

Algeria

Bendjedid Speaks on Gulf War, Elections Date

LD2502121991 Algiers APS in English 1016 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Hassi Messaoud, 25 Feb (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid chaired on Sunday [24 February] a meeting in the base of Feb 24,'71 [as received] in Hassi Messaoud (600 km south east of Algiers) on the occasion of the double anniversary of hydrocarbons nationalization and the creation of the UGTA (Algerian Trade Union).

On this occasion, the head of state stressed the interest of the celebration of such an event pointing out the significance hydrocarbons' nationalization reflects in 1991. A historical decision that enabled the recovery of Algeria's national resources and also one of its national sovereignty elements. While paying homage to workers' fight that allowed through all this period, numerous economic and social successes on the occasion of this double anniversary, President Chadli Bendjedid noted that this date coincides with the third annivesary of the adoption of 23rd 1989 Constitution by Algerian people. The latter would have opened, said Chadli, a new important phase in Algeria history and enables to found bases and prepare the appropriate scope towards the implementation of the state of law and actual democracy.

As for the Gulf war, the head of state invoked strategic ends of military forces' deployment in the Middle East whose objective is to destroy Iraq's defense capabilities and install a new equilibrium in that region and a new international order from which no Muslim, Arab or any other Third World country will benefit in general. This Gulf war would have also allowed to throw away certain countries masks, either Arab, Muslim or other ones noted President Chadli, adding "Algeria has to define its policy in light of the defense of its independence and principle, considering various developments since the beginning of the conflict on the Arab and African scenes. Such a policy will be centered on national solidarity, vigilence and particularly in the self reliance by intensifying efforts towards a democratic state's edification a strong state, able to preserve political decision, independence, and national sovereignty.

In this regard, the head of state voiced his sincere convictions of the necessity to urge Maghreb's edification that some want to see crumbling even if this process sometimes witnesses bureaucratic slow downs in the application of decisions. Furthermore, after tackling international matters, mainly the Gulf war, Chadli insisted on recalling his commitments about holding anticipated legislative elections as soon as all necessary conditions are gathered. Commitments that remain maintained while the announcement of their date will be made public in the coming weeks.

Eventually, President Chadli called on nationals to be ready to fully, freely assume their responsibility in chosing their representatives at the future assembly before reiterating his congratulations to hyrdrocarbons workers on the occasion of their feast.

U.S. Treatment of Iraq Assailed

LD2602203291 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Commentary by Malek Benhacine]

[Text] All honorable exits from the conflict have been closed this evening by President George Bush. Iraq's agreement on implementing resolution 660, the confirmation of the evacuation of Kuwait eight days later, and even the start of this evacuation were not enough! Washington made it clear this evening: American wants to punish! It demands no more and no less than unconditional surrender of Iraq with all what this means in terms of constraint and humiliation for its people, and with it all the Arab peoples.

With its arrogance that we all know and its domineering tendency, America gives the impression of laying the foundation for a strong and durable settlement of all problems in the Middle East. It seems that history is repeating itself while the Americans are systematically continuing to turn their backs on it. Is this another collapse of the Ottoman Empire and a division of its spoils that we are witnessing today? On the basis of the same values of their British predecessors, and with almost identical objectives, Washington is trying to stifle the Arab liberation movement. In imposing itself as the sole force guaranteeing order in the area and in bringing Israel to join in, Washington thinks it is capable of freezing the evolution of the emancipation movement. In perpetuating in the name of freedom the anachronistic order of most states in the Arab peninsula, and in involving the Syrian and Egyptian regimes, Washington wants to give the impression of having won over entire peoples.

Never was the gap so wide between the peoples of these countries and their leaders. If one wishes to be convinced, one has only to follow the demonstrations in Cairo that have been taking place for some days and the unrest witnessed within the Syrian and Egyptian armies. In imposing its protectorate—as it has already started—over the Middle East, America only increases the number of tension areas. In hijacking legality and in encouraging the perversion of the values of freedom and equity, Washington only strengthens within the Arab masses the symbol which represents the struggle of the Iraqi people. In refusing cease-fire and, in particular, wanting to humiliate the Iraqi people, George Bush has just created another Palestinian problem with all what this involves in terms of emotional charge and mortaging relations with the Arab countries.

This evening, if the weapons have not spoken their last words, all the responsibility will be assumed by the United States. If the massacres and the bloodshed continue, this is the wish of George Bush. If the Iraqi Army resorts to weapons of mass destuction for the survival of

its people, this would obviously be an act of self-defense. It is still up to the U.S. president to avoid this. Mankind has not forgotten the crime committed against it at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Baghdad should not be the third victim of the deadly American madness.

Fundamentalist Volunteers Depart To Fight for Iraq

LD2502123191 Paris International Service in French 0655 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid denounced yesterday what he described as the savage attack on Iraq. [passage omitted] The reaction of the opposition is similar to that of the Algerian authorities. Anne Diseize reports:

[Diseize] From the Islamic fundamentalists of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], who tirelessly continue to summon Algerians to the jihad, to the democrats of the Socialist Forces Front and the Rally for Culture and Democracy, who are demanding a meeting of the Security Council today, there has not been a single discordant note in Algerian political statements. They are unanimous in supporting Iraq and Saddam. Ahmed Ben Bella's Movement for Democracy in Algeria speaks of breaking ties with the belligerent countries, translated as the coalition countries. Former Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah's Algerian Movement for the Development of Justice demands the severance of diplomatic relations between those who back Iraq and the others. The Socialist Vanguard Party, the former Communist Party, wants a committee to be created to support Iraq and to stop what it calls the vile aggression. [passage omitted]

The FIS has taken advantage of the occasion to announce the departure, which has apparently really taken place this time, of 50 fundamentalist volunteers. They have set off for Tunis and from there a dozen of them should be arriving in Baghdad via Amman. God and the war permitting. This is Anne Diseize in Algiers for RFI [Radio France International].

[Announcer] As Anne Diseize has been telling us, some 50 members of the FIS left for Baghdad yesterday afternoon. They are due to go and fight at the side of the Iraqi forces. Among these volunteers is reported to be the number two of the FIS, Ali Belhadj himself.

Egypt

Mubarak Congratulates Fahd on Kuwait's Liberation

NC2702114591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a telephone conversation at noon today with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The two leaders exchanged congratulations over the successful liberation of fraternal Kuwait and the return of right to its legitimate owners.

Ministerial Working Group Discusses Developments

University Situation Said Exaggerated

NC2602141491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] [no placename as received] 26 Feb (MENA)—Today the ministerial working group charged with following up the war to liberate Kuwait discussed political and military developments in a meeting held this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He added that the new Soviet initiative was discussed in light of media announcements and the Security Council discussions because Egypt has not yet received an official text of this initiative and is still waiting for its text and its content to form its opinion on it.

The information minister stressed that Egypt supports the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and takes into consideration the security of its troops in the operations of the Kuwait liberation war.

The information minister said Defense Minister General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib presented a report on the military aspect and explained that the Egyptian forces are successfully fulfilling their mission deep inside Kuwaiti territory in a way exceeding the set plan and are effectively overcoming all the obstacles facing them.

He referred to what Baghdad Radio has announced about withdrawal from Kuwait and its effect on the Iraqi troops' morale. He also referred to the surrender of a large number of Iraqi troops.

The information minister said the interior minister presented a report on developments in the security situation in light of reports about a number of students at Cairo and al-Mansurah Universities who were shouting slogans against the foreign presence despite the fact that they condemn Saddam Husayn's crimes. He said that thousands, and even the great majority, of university students shoulder their responsibility, express Egypt's firm position, and are attending their regular classes.

Safwat al-Sharif said certain radio stations, including Radio Monte Carlo and others, exaggerate this situation. He said they should seek the truth because those radios have become suspected of deceiving Arab and world public opinion and always try to distort the picture concerning stability in Egypt. These radios, he added, should reconsider their position and not contribute to deceiving public opinion.

The information minister added that there is democracy in Egypt, that these radios must understand that freedom goes hand in hand with responsibility and truth, and that the attempt to distort the picture is unacceptable. These radios must seek the truth in what they broadcast, he said.

The information minister concluded his statement by saying some students hurled stones yesterday at security men outside the university campus, injuring two officers and one student. He said this subject has been referred to the competent authorities for investigation.

Kuwaiti Requests Viewed

NC2702125991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1217 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—The ministerial working team assigned to follow up the war for the liberation of Kuwait held a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi this morning.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the meeting reviewed the study drawn up by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry about the information available on the Soviet initiative. He added that the team discussed the ongoing exchanges between Egypt and its Arab sisters in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the Gulf states. He went on to say that the team touched on the developments in the military operations and the military situation in general.

The information minister pointed out that wide-scale military operations were carried out by the Egyptian forces' armored cars and mechanized infantry last night and that these forces performed combat fighting with high efficiency and aptitude during their total seizure of the 'Ali al-Salim Airport and the mopping up of Kuwait's area of al-Jahra'. The team was also briefed on the advance of the vanguards of the Egyptian, Saudi, and Kuwaiti forces toward Kuwait City.

The information minister concluded his statement saying that the team discussed the Kuwaiti Government's urgent requests for Egyptian expertise needed for the current stage. He said that all ministries have been notified to meet such requests as soon as possible.

Minister Says Iraqi Position 'Will Be Assessed'

NC2602141791 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that while Baghdad Radio reports Iraq's acceptance of withdrawal, rockets are being fired at Saudi Arabia and Qatar, a fact that on the whole does not inspire confidence and instead raises doubts about the effectiveness and usefulness of such a line.

In a statement to the People's Assembly, 'Abd-al-Majid added that the Iraqi position will be assessed to see how it can result in Iraq's compliance with all UN Security Council resolutions. He emphasized that Egypt will continue to follow all Security Council deliberations in this regard. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid Makes Statement to People's Assembly

NC2602114791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that today we are passing through a critical phase in the history of our Arab region, where there is currently a confrontation between legitimacy, justice, and law on the one hand, and hegemony, expansion, and tyranny on the other.

This was contained in a statement Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid delivered before the People's Assembly in a session held this morning under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur.

The foreign minister stressed that our Egyptian Armed Forces are respectfully and courageously joining the coalition forces in the liberation of Kuwait from an unjust occupation in order to implement the world community's resolutions and on the basis of legitimacy and justice. He also said the Armed Forces truly reflect the will of the Egyptian people.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid added that today the Egyptian Army is upholding the banners of right and justice in the land of fraternal Kuwait and before all the region's peoples. He also emphasized the good treatment being accorded to the personnel in the surrendering Iraqi forces by their Egyptian brothers, asserting that this is the genuine stance of Egypt which is clearly unfolding in the darkest circumstances.

He added that it is regrettable that the Iraqi leadership miscalculated when it invaded Kuwait and then when it persisted in this occupation and attempted to break up the unity of the Arab nation.

He went on to say that the Egyptian people are fully aware of the circumstances which created the present situation. They are also fully aware of all the efforts which President Husni Mubarak exerted before 2 August and after the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, even hours before the outbreak of hostilities.

Reportage on Progress of Armed Forces Tasks

Overcoming Obstacles

NC2502170791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—A military source said today that the Egyptian forces carried out their military tasks on the first day with great success and with high rates of progress that exceeded the original plans despite encountering several obstacles on the first defense line.

Our forces are continuing their progress and are now 30 km inside Kuwait after overcoming the fortified obstacles there. The Egyptian artillery and missile launchers are continuing to silence the sources of opposing fire.

The military source said that today's military operations resulted in the destruction of a number of Iraqi armored vehicles and artillery pieces and that a large number of Iraqi officers and men of various ranks were captured.

Concluding his statement, the source affirmed that our forces sustained no losses of life or equipment. Casualties were confined to a few injuries that were treated in the field.

'High Degree of Efficiency' Shown

NC2602172391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—The General Command of the Egyptian Armed Forces has announced that the Egyptian forces engaged in the operation to liberate Kuwait have accomplished their mission with a high degree of efficiency.

Having fulfilled all their assignments, the Egyptian forces penetrated deep inside Kuwaiti territory at a rate that was quicker than is normally achieved.

The General Command said in a statement that 4,000 Iraqi officers and soldiers today surrendered to our forces and are being treated well.

Military vehicles have been prepared to transfer them to prisoner of war camps in Saudi Arabia.

Our forces did not sustain any casualties today.

Advancing 'More Quickly Than Planned'

NC2602224691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Kuwait City, 26 Feb (MENA)—From 'Adil 'Abd-al-'Aziz, MENA military editor: The Egyptian forces have liberated more than 3,000 square km of Kuwaiti territory. All units and formations of the Egyptian forces have penetrated 90 km inside Kuwaiti territory without any loss of life or equipment.

As of 1700 Saudi time today the 3rd Mechanized Infantry Division arrived in the al-Abraq area, while the 4th Armored Division managed to arrive at 'Ali al-Salim Airport, 15 km west of al-Jahrah.

The editor added that the Egyptian forces have thus liberated almost the entire southeastern part of Kuwait. He said that these forces have continued to advance more quickly than planned. He pointed out that an Egyptian artillery brigade managed to capture some 250 Iraqi soldiers and officers, adding that this is the first time artillery troops have captured prisoners of war.

MENA's military editor, who spent last night and today with the Egyptian troops in the theater of operations, said that he witnessed the continuous advance of the 3d Mechanized Infantry Division deep inside Kuwaiti territory and saw how this division accomplished its mission successfully during the third day of ground operations. The 4th Armored Division also successfully completed the missions assigned to it.

The MENA editor pointed out that the Egyptian shock troops managed to arrive at the areas in which the oil-filled trenches were located and to plug the tubes which supply them with fuel at night. Having done this, Egyptian engineering units opened several holes in the minefields planted by Saddam Husayn's troops, posted the necessary warning signs in the area, and opened several axes and paths for the troops to cross.

MENA's military editor's report says that during only a few clashes it became clear that the Iraqi forces were not using any combat methods in the accepted sense. The Iraqi side did not counterattack, except in small numbers, because these forces had lost their capability as a result of the concentrated air strikes to which they were subjected over a prolonged period, because their supply lines had been severed, and finally because of the Iraqi decision to withdraw from Kuwait.

The report added that four Iraqi tanks were destroyed today, and at the same time some Iraqi soldiers fled their positions, leaving all their equipment behind, clearly indicating that a rapid escape from the front was being carried out. This was proved by the condition of the abandoned weapons.

The report said that it was noticeable that Saddam Husayn's forces did not try to stop the advance of the Egyptian forces. This can be attributed to the expected forceful response and to the collapse of the Iraqi forces' morale. Additionally, the Egyptian forces did not give the Iraqi forces any chance to respond, and the Egyptian response to any attempted resistance by these forces was very rapid. The Iraqi forces also became certain that the Egyptian advance was a major one and that the Egyptian forces were very determined.

The MENA military editor met with large numbers of Iraqis at the al-Mityahah point 23 km inside the Kuwaiti border. Most of them said that their political leadership, through its decisions, caused the destruction of Iraq and its people.

One Iraqi soldier criticized President Saddam Husayn and asserted that Saddam cares only about his own and his family's safety and had sent his family abroad. He noted how Saddam had involved his Armed Forces in continuous wars for eight years and then transferred the war from Iran to Kuwait.

Another Iraqi soldier said that the Iraqi forces' morale had completely collapsed and the unit he had been serving in, which used to number 140 soldiers and officers, now has only 40. The others escaped because of their despair over this war. He explained that if it had not been for the Iraqi execution battalions which belong to the Republican Guard Forces, everyone would have

escaped. He said these battalions arrest deserters and return them to their units after shaving their heads. If they escape again they are executed.

The MENA military editor says that during his talk with the Iraqi soldiers he became convinced that Saddam Husayn's forces did not learn of the Iraqi decision to withdraw from Kuwait because their communications with their command were severed and because they did not have radios in working condition.

The editor added that he saw for himself, and without being surprised, the feelings of amity which prevailed among everyone, regardless of everything else. He saw the Egyptian soldier giving food and water to the Iraqi prisoner despite the circumstances of war. He added that Egyptian vehicles and tanks making their way into Kuwait would stop whenever they passed a group of prisoners to give them food and water. He said this was a unique sight. He added that some Iraqis embraced the Egyptian troops. He noted that the Iraqi troops he met, most of whom belonged to the 60th and 44th Brigades of the Iraqi 20th Division and who have been conscripted as reserves for several years, thanked the Egyptian forces for their good treatment.

The agency's military editor affirmed that none among the Egyptian forces or troops crossed the Iraqi border. He said the Egyptian forces' operations sector is far from the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border and the Iraqi-Saudi border.

Commentary Praises Leadership's 'Credibility'

NC2602160091 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "Events Underscore Credibility, Farsightedness of Egyptian Leadership"]

[Text] The Egyptian leadership's farsightedness, credibility, and objectivity are being borne out by unfolding events. Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Egypt has taken great pains to underline its support for right and legitimacy, urging Iraq to make amends to the neighborly Muslim people it harmed and to withdraw its forces from Kuwait. When Iraq's intransigence and persistent noncompliance with Arab and international calls for it to disgorge Kuwait brought things to a head, Egypt made successive private and public appeals for the Iraqi president to heed the voice of reason, warning him about the pitfalls of obstinacy and its potential disastrous consequences for Arabs in general and the Iraqi people in particular.

All Egypt's brotherly appeals fell on deaf ears and went unheeded by the Iraqi president. If anything, Iraq's reactions were consistently negative, with it leveling accusations against Egypt. Egypt, by contrast, displayed forbearance and constancy over principles, proposing initiative after initiative to the Iraqi president, prior to both the air campaign and the land offensive, seeking to spare the people of Iraq devastation and ruin. The ruler of Iraq, however, remained as obstinate as ever and once again defied the international community.

He had the Revolution Command Council accede to UN Security Council Resolution 660, providing for a pullout from Kuwait, but this acceptance was hedged with unacceptable conditions, the aim being to put the entire world to the test. The world, however, turned down the Iraqi offer and stressed the need for full and unconditional compliance with the will of the international community. Iraq proved equally equivocal on the Soviet initiative. While his foreign minister was in Moscow informing the Soviet leadership of his acceptance of their initiative, the Iraqi president was telling the Iraqi people that he was prosecuting the war and taking on the international forces, thereby aborting the Soviet initiative, which in itself failed to satisfy all UN resolutions.

Now, faced with the consequences of his irresponsible behavior and the impact of ever mounting pressure on the battlefield, the Iraqi ruler has decided to withdraw. While the decision is inadequate, at least in form, coming as it does on Baghdad radio and not having yet been communicated officially to the United Nations, and while it fails to commit Iraq to unconditional compliance with UN resolutions, it was made under the impact of the military pressure to liberate Kuwait.

Once again, we would tell the Iraqi ruler: You could have heeded the voice of reason counseled by President Mubarak and his 27 brotherly appeals warning you of the dangers inherent in your behavior. Thus the credibility of the Egyptian position is borne out, as is the soundness of Egypt's principles based on support for legitimacy and its refusal to accepts benefits obtained or territory acquired through the use of force. We can only hope that God will help the stricken people of Iraq who have suffered such devastation thanks to a leader gone astray and blinded by conceit.

Papers Comment on Saddam's Decision To Withdraw

NC2702014191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—Cairo's Wednesday edition newspapers focused on news of the Iraqi Army's retreat and Saddam Husayn's declaration that he was withdrawing his forces from Kuwait. This is part of the these papers' continued interest in covering the news and developments of the Gulf war to liberate Kuwait, which is entering its final and decisive stage. [passage omitted]

In an editorial with the headline "Why They Refuse To Believe Him," AL-AKHBAR says that Saddam Husayn is the only head of state in the world who can find no one to believe a word he says, even when he declares that he has decided to withdraw his forces from Kuwait.

The paper adds that the leaders of all the coalition countries received this declaration with suspicion and refused to believe it, and their forces continued to direct blows at his troops everywhere. It notes that the world is

excused for doing this after Saddam Husayn proved his brilliance at lies and treachery, and his hostility to truth and honesty even in dealing with the leaders of those countries he alleged were his friends.

The paper says that the Baghdad ruler continued his lies until as recently as a few days ago when he sent his foreign minister to Moscow to ask the Kremlin leader to help him extricate himself from the abyss into which he had fallen. At the same time he declared to the public that he would fight until victory and would teach the allies a lesson they would not forget.

In conclusion, the paper says that Saddam Husayn might be truthful this time about his wish to withdraw all his forces from Kuwait, but he must blame only himself if no one believes him.

Under the headline "The Price of Obstinacy," AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Saddam Husayn finally surprised the world by declaring he was withdrawing from Kuwait and asking his troops to return to the [pre-] 2 August borders. The timing of the decision, however, was too late, and Saddam stood alone in front of the whole world after refusing to withdraw when there was time to do so.

The paper adds: If the withdrawal decision had been made before the war began, it would have been possible to avoid bloodshed and the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure, and it would have been possible to save the Iraqi Army as a power to be added to Arab capability. [passage omitted]

Paper Asserts Nation's Preeminent Postwar Role

PM2702122091 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 25 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Egypt And Its Mission"]

[Text] When the history of the disaster of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its subsequent results is written, there will be one bright page amid a huge number of dark pages. That page will reveal the true essence of the Arab leadership that understands its responsibilities and works earnestly to fulfill them. This is in contrast to the invading, aggressive Arab leadership that has not observed the responsibilities of fraternity and has in fact ignored them.

Before the disaster occurred, and to prevent its occurrence, President Husni Mubarak sought—from a position of awareness of pan-Arab responsibility—to prevent the the situation from deteriorating. So when the events took place, he tried hard to prevent the devastating effects of the disastrous invasion. He called for the extraordinary Arab summit, whose resolutions were rejected by the Iraqi regime. That was followed by the

These are some of the lines on the bright page amid the black record of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

And today, after the ground war has broke out, worsening the situation even further and increasing the Arabs' pain and burdens, the Egyptian leadership's and the Egyptian people's pan-Arab responsibility emerges, especially when this war comes to an end. Egypt's leadership and people will be a safety valve in the postwar period. Egypt alone can bridge the gaps, fill the vacuum, restore the disrupted balance, and unite the split ranks.

Restoring Arab union will be an urgent responsibility once the war is over. No one else is better able than Egypt to play this role. It will prove once again that it is always faithful to its pan-Arab responsibility, even in the most difficult circumstances and worst situations.

Mauritania

Taya, Sudan's Al-Bashir Condemn Ground Offensive

AB2502180691 Paris AFP in French 1312 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 25 Feb (AFP)—The Mauritanian and Sudanese heads of state Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya and 'Umar al-Bashir, in a communique published today in Nouakchott at the end of the Sudanese military junta head's visit to Mauritania, have condemned the beginning of the ground offensive in the Gulf and said that it is aimed "at totally destroying Iraq."

The two countries have "condemned the ground war imposed on Iraq by the coalition forces, who have ignored all the negotiations undertaken to find a peaceful solution," the communique further stated.

"The real objectives (of the coalition forces) lie beyond the simple liberation of Kuwait." They are also aimed at "the total destruction of Iraq," the two heads of state said, and reaffirmed their "solidarity" with Iraq.

They also called on the "the Arab and Islamic community and the peace- and justice-loving forces to strive to put an end to the war and find a peaceful solution to the conflict."

General al-Bashir, who left the Mauritanian capital this morning, said that "the sole loser in this war is the Islamic and Arab community, and the serious consequences of this conflict constitute a threat to the future."

The communique further indicates that the two heads of state held important "political" discussions relating to recent developments in the Gulf crisis.

On bilateral issues, the two countries decided to set up a ministerial commission in order to establish political, economic, and cultural cooperation "in accordance with the spiritual and cultural bonds woven throughout the years between the two peoples."

The Sudanese head of state arrived yesterday in Nouakchott as part of his tour in the Maghreb countries.

Iraqi Acceptance of Gorbachev Plan Praised

AB2402200591 Paris AFP in French 2113 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 22 Feb (AFP)—Mauritania has expressed satisfaction with Iraq's decision to accept the plan presented by Mikhail Gorbachev, Mauritanian Information Minister Mohamed Lamine Ahmed said this afternoon.

"Acceptance of this plan now opens a new era for the restoration of peace, because no argument, no reason aimed at justifying the war exists any longer," the minister added.

"The pretext of international legality put forward to date no longer exists following acceptance of this initiative," Mr. Lamine concluded.

Morocco

Paper Condemns Land Battle Against Iraq

LD2502180991 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Rabat, 25 Feb (MAP)—The Moroccan paper AL-BAYAN has warned against the storm which, it said, will not remain confined to the desert if the U.S.-Western alliance thinks it can disregard the rights of the Arab peoples, including the Iraqi people, violate their right to a free and dignified life, and their right to safety and sovereignty.

In today's commentary, the paper said that for the United States the main objectives of the war are to dismember Iraq, eliminate its regime, and change the political map of the region according to U.S. imperialist objectives, and that is why it refuses to abandon its ground offensive against the Iraqi forces.

AL-BAYAN added that Iraq has gone very far in accepting a plan which is very harsh politically and morally to Baghdad's regime.

The paper said the text [of the plan] does not refer at all to the main Iraqi demand which is to link the Gulf crisis with the other pending problems of the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian question.

AL-BAYAN asks: Did the coalition, led by the United States, demand total and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait? Why, then, is the ultimatum accompanied by echoes of napalm in a prelude to the ground offensive?

The paper concluded by saying that the West, which has cast aside Gorbachev's plan and supported Washington in the invasion and destruction, may have to pay a very high price for its subordination [to the United States]. The paper stressed that the aftershock of continuing the war will end what remains of the Arab world's relations with the West, pointing out that the Arab world will not forgive this mad prejudice which is not satisfied merely with Iraq's return to its land after it has been demolished and its people killed, but insists on offending and humiliating the Arab world for Israel's benefit.

Gulf News 'Blackout' Viewed as 'Cloak'

LD2402141291 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] The U.S. Defense Department's instructions, explained by Dick Cheney, concerning the blanket news blackout could have more than one meaning. The instructions have placed the observers in a real state of tension and caution.

As for the plan of attack followed by the western allies at the beginning of the ground battle, the Pentagon has already confirmed the use of internationally banned napalm bombs in opening breaches in the Iraqi fortifications and in firing on Iraqi troop trenches. Perhaps resorting to weapons of this kind was what made the commanders of the Western military alliance keep silent and draft a cloak of ambiguity on the military field.

Through controlling the media coverage of the battles the allies would like to contain any short-term reactions inside or outside their countries, especially as the phases of the ground war recall to memory the heavy human losses.

While the Western alliance countries insist on maintaining secrecy, Iraqi official sources have announced that they have inflicted considerable losses on the coalition forces in spite of the fierceness of the air attacks which have so far covered all Iraqi cities and positions.

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Rejects Withdrawal Statement

LD2602195891 London KUNA in Arabic 1841 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] al-Ta'if, 26 February, KUNA—Kuwait tonight announced its categorical rejection of a cease-fire and the twisted Iraqi attempts aimed at bypassing international resolutions. Here is the text of the statement issued by a responsible Foreign Ministry source:

The Iraqi regime has announced its decision on withdrawing its invading forces from Kuwait. This attitude falls within the context of the desperate Iraqi attempts repeatedly presented to the international community, with the aim of achieving objectives which have become exposed, known, and disapproved by the international community.

The State of Kuwait—which has provided sacrifices in the form of the blood of its sons and the destruction of its installations over the dark months of occupation, and now stands at the gates of victory, thanks to the support of the honest people and friends in the world—announces its categorical rejection of a cease-fire and of such twisted attempts on the part of the Iraqi regime to bypass the international resolutions on which the whole world agreed, represented in the 12 resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Kuwait also confirms that Iraq has no way out other than to comply with the international will and clearly and fully announce acceptance of all the resolutions issued by the UN security council beginning with resolution 660 through to 678, especially on the complete, immediate, and unconditional withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territories, the return of Kuwaiti legitimacy, and the abolishing of all decisions concerning the so-called annexation; Iraq must agree to pay compensation, undertake to restore security and stability to the region, and deal with the other issues contained in the above resolutions, in accordance with international laws, charters, and customs applied in this respect.

In the speech of the president of the Iraqi regime pertaining to his compliance, in defeat, with the international will, he clung to his illusions concerning the State of Kuwait and repeated what he had said over the last six months about the origin and the branch, as though the map of the region or the history of Kuwait could be changed by a decree from Baghdad or an occupation army driven by evil and backward inclinations of expansion and conceited illusion. Kuwait, which preceded modern Iraq as a political reality and whose regime goes back more than 200 years, shall remain Kuwait, God willing. Its steadfastnes in the face of Iraqi occupation and the barbaric practices over the last seven months of Iraqi occupation and invasion, have made it more firm in its attachment to its independence and more proud in its existence. The arena and pure land of Kuwait was the one to witness the end of the dreams of the tyrant, and perhaps the defeated and scattered Iraqi Army will convince the Iraqi regime that what has happened is the mother of all defeats. Only God grants success.

Higher Advisory Council Discusses Situation

LD2602235791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2319 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] al-Ta'if, 26 February 1991, SPA—The Kuwait Higher Advisory Council held the first meeting of its third session under Shaykh S'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and Kuwaiti prime minister. Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalid al-Ghunaym, secretary general of the Kuwaiti People's Congress, said that the council discussed the current developments in the political and military arena, in the light of the military operations under way to free Kuwait. The council expressed at its meeting gratitude and profuse thanks for the hospitality provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and beseeched God to extend the blessing of security and stability which the Kingdom enjoys under King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his loyal crown prince, may God safeguard them. The council also expressed its profuse thanks and gratitude to all the members of the multinational force belonging to sister and friendly states, and to the leaders and peoples of those states, whose sons' blood was shed on the land of Kuwait in order to expel the evil aggressor, and consecrate justice and the restoration of right. The council saluted all Kuwaitis inside Kuwait for their heroic steadfastness against the barbaric practices of the occupation forces. The council confirmed that national duty dictates that all should direct all the efforts and energies to immediate work for the purging of Kuwait from all the traces of aggression and for firm establishment of the pillars of security and stability, the provision of all the means of secure and tranquil life, and enabling the Kuwaitis to return to their country.

The council reaffirmed the importance of national cohesion and thorough firmness in confronting attempts aiming at the weakening of the internal [home] front. It stressed the need to hold on to national unity, which was the strongest weapon in the battle of liberation and which will be the most important weapon in the battle of constructing Kuwait and repairing what was destroyed by the oppressive Iraqi aggressor.

'Military Source' Says Airport Liberated

NC2702015791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0145 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] al-Khafji, 27 Feb (MENA)—A Kuwaiti military source has stated that Kuwait International Airport was seized and brought under full control after violent fighting with special units of the Iraqi forces who were stationed there last night.

In a statement over the telephone to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY at dawn today, the source added that all kinds of military equipment were used in liberating the airport south of Kuwait City.

He said that Iraqi forces' losses are currently being assessed and noted that some of these forces are still hiding in an area between the airport building and the Customs Department. The source explained that the airport building will be searched when morning comes.

Coalition Forces Enter Kuwait City 27 Feb

LD2702051891 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Excerpt] The coalition forces, led by the Kuwaiti forces, have entered the capital, Kuwait City to tighten their control on the state of Kuwait in the final phase of its liberation from Iraqi occupation.

In an interview with CNN, a Kuwaiti officer said that in agreement with the coalition forces, Kuwaiti forces entered the city first to raise its flag in the middle of the city, in the place where the Kuwaiti flag is customarily raised at every celebration of the National Day, as the first step in the reinstatement of legitimate authority in Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Troops Continue 'Retreat,' 'Surrender'

LD2602174991 London KUNA in Arabic 1721 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA] txt
[Text] The Eastern Region, [Saudi Arabia], 26 Feb KUNA—Kuwaiti technicians today started maintenance work on the water and electricity supplies and the basic services of the liberated State of Kuwait. Meanwhile, food and medical aid is heading for Kuwait to be distributed to the steadfast population inside Kuwait.

Kuwaiti citizens have started huge marches and demonstrations in Kuwaiti cities, welcoming the Kuwaiti, sister, and friendly forces, while shouting God is great, and thanking God for His victory.

Reports from inside Kuwait speak of big Iraqi sectors continuing their forced retreat to Iraq, without arms or equipment. Groups and whole brigades also continue to surrender to the allied forces. The advance of the allied forces toward Kuwait coincides with traffic moving in the opposite direction carrying thousands of Iraqi prisoners to camps prepared for them in Saudi Arabia.

Heir Apparent To Return 'Today or Tomorrow'

NC2702073791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0656 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Feb (WAKH)—Informed Kuwaiti sources have said that His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, will enter Kuwait today or tomorrow, Thursday, to perform his tasks as Kuwait's martial law governor after an amiri decree was issued appointing him Kuwait's martial law governor for the next three months.

Citing the Kuwaiti sources, the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM said in its today's issue that members of the Kuwaiti Cabinet will begin to carry out their tasks each within his jurisdiction through guidance from His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Aballah.

Residential Areas Reported 'Relatively Calm'

LD2602173891 London KUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA] txt
[Excerpt] London, 26 Feb (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti resistance appealed to all citizens inside Kuwait to remain in their houses until further notice. Some citizens reported, in contacts with KUNA today, that residential areas in Kuwait are relatively calm. They indicated that sporadic shots have been heard, and it seems "that their origin is far from the residential areas in the town." [passage omitted]

Army Raises National Flag in Capital

NC2702085491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Feb (WAKH)—The Kuwaiti flag was hoisted in the center of the capital at 0900, local time, today. Singing the national anthem, Kuwaiti Army personnel hoisted the flag of free and independent Kuwait in the center of the capital.

CNN displayed shots of Kuwaiti citizens hoisting the flag while chanting slogans and raising the portraits of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, and the flags of Kuwait. Joyous with freedom, crowds of Kuwaiti citizens appeared on CNN after seeing again the light of independence and freedom from the seven-month sinful Iraqi occupation.

Report Details Infrastructure Damage in Kuwait

LD2702101191 London KUNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Feb (KUNA)—According to reports received from liberated Kuwait after the departure of the Iraqi forces, all major buildings in the Kuwaiti capital and all houses abutting on the sea from the Hotel Sheraton and along the entire Corniche have suffered no damage except from a small ammount of very minor damage.

The report, which is the first to be sent by the Kuwaiti resistance from inside Kuwait to the Kuwait Government about the situation inside Kuwait, adds that all branches of the Kuwaiti banks, government buildings, police stations, the Ministry of Planning, the water

towers, and the new telecommunications towers have suffered minor damage only.

The report adds that the Kuwait stock exchange did not suffer any damage and appears to be in good condition. Big hotels, however, have suffered major damage. The Iraqi forces have looted these hotels. They set fire to the reception lounge of the Mariot al-Salam Hotel, the report states. The Iraqi forces also set fire to the hotels Sheraton, Regency, Holiday Inn, and International. Hotel Meridian suffered a great deal of damage.

According to the report from inside Kuwait, the Kuwaitis now control the police stations and are collecting the weapons and munitions left behind by the fleeing Iraqi forces. These consist of large quantities of munition and a large number of antiaircraft guns.

Diplomat Discusses Cost of Rebuilding Kuwait

LD2702085191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0800 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] The rebuilding of Kuwait will cost $100 billion, according to a counsellor at Kuwait's embassy in Vienna. Speaking to NEPSZABADSAG, the diplomat said that the manner in which Hungarian firms take part in the rebuilding of the ruined country depends on them. On the damage, he said that the Iraqis have set fire to some 600 oil wells, demolished an enormous number of houses, including the parliament building, and abducted several thousand mainly young people, and taken them to Iraq. Saddam Husayn's soldiers have caused such serious devastation that enormous oil fields in Kuwait have been destroyed. The ports, telecommunications system, and electricity network are unusable, he said.

Radio Calls For Removing Saddam From Power

LD2702125491 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1118 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Here is Kuwait. The tyrant [Saddam Husayn] will die because of the crimes committed by his dirty hands against the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples alike. If he is not killed by a bullet or his neck wrung in the noose of the gallows, he will die out of sorrow, sadness, and defeat. He will be chased by Kuwait and its people. They will chase Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi people will do the same too. From this day on this sick criminal will not be able to escape from those chasing him and until they catch up with him and bring him to justice.

It is for the achievement of this objective that the coalition forces will continue with the war and will chase the defeated remnants of Saddam's Army. They will strip them of their weapons and equipment. They will target all the tools of aggression upon which the Iraqi regime continues to rely. There are justifications for this.

Saddam Husayn still relies on the theory of lies and false behavior. The Iraqi people and the Iraqi Army are the victims of this lying which has been continuing for over 20 years.

Saddam Husayn and his criminal regime are trying to claim victory amid the abominable defeat, which is known by all, and before them by the people and Army in Iraq.

The routed Saddam continues to declare that he will not abandon his claim to Kuwait. This routed lier continues to reject the UN Security Council resolutions and conditions of the victorious coalition. He continues with his attempts to retrieve some of his forces, naturally not out of love for them, but to keep some of the tools which would enable him to commit aggression internally and externally, and because he has no real humanitarian feelings, nor an active conscience. He does not have an atom of regret for the crimes he has committed and the problems he has created for Kuwait, for Iraq, and for the entire region.

He does not have any feeling of responsibility whatsoever for the consequences and results of his aggression, or for his attempts to continue with the aggression.

Perhaps all this could justify limiting the continued stay in power of this rotten and sinister man.

If our Gulf people and the coalition forces, with all their symbols and tools, are contemplating putting an end to the aggression, then restoring security, stability, and reassurance to this lively region of the world—so that it can play its positive roles on all levels—make it necessary that the head of the snake should be severed and stripped of all the poisons it holds.

The snake in this context is the regime and its head is Saddam, whose heart abounds with grudges, whose mind is filled with illusions, and whose body is filled with terminal tumors and pus.

So that Kuwait, Iraq, and the whole region can rid itself of these ailments and rancors, an end must be put to Saddam and his gang. This is no longer something that falls within the sphere of objectives and speculations. It has moved to the stage of resolutions and implementation.

The sons of the region, Iraqi, and Gulf peoples, are now putting the final touches to an Iraq that is free of Saddam and his gang, and a Gulf that is not threatened by the rancors of the criminals and the complexes of the butchers.

Those who have oppressed shall see what will befall them. Let the dejected be really dejected. [Koranic verse]

Radio Instructs Citizens on Safety Measures

'Do Not Burn Iraqi Equipment'

LD2602172791 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1646 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Sons of free and valiant Kuwait! Please take notice of the following directives and implement them in a spirit of responsibility and awareness.

First: Please do not burn Iraqi military equipment and weapons left behind by the remnants of the Saddam soldiers, because they may contain ammunition or explosives. It is necessary to keep them intact.

Second: Please do not fire into the air as an expression of rejoicing. [passage omitted]

Third: You are all requested to stay indoors and not venture out, especially at night, for your own safety. [passage omitted]

Allied Aircraft To Arrive

LD2602205991 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2045 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Statement read over telephone by unidentified correspondent inside Kuwait]

[Text] A telephone message from inside Kuwait:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, O brothers in Kuwait, we have just received the following news item from the command of the joint international forces: In a few hours or a few minutes the international forces intend to send some of their detachments to built-up residential areas by way of helicopter. We sincerely ask you not to direct at them any weapons, and not to open fire at them, and to make sure that they are aircraft of the joint forces, which will take control of the city of Kuwait and other regions. Please pay attention to this.

Reminder Not To Fire on Aircraft

LD2602221591 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2150 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Statement read over telephone by unidentified correspondent inside Kuwait]

[Text] A telephone message from inside Kuwait:

O our relatives the people of Kuwait, O honest residents! We thank you and express our most sincere appreciation for your adherence to all the instructions. We would, however, like to remind you of several other points in addition to other instructions. The sound of shots is still being heard in some streets. Therefore we warn against this and point out that this is not in the interest of the country at present. We also point out that opening fire may confuse the work of the international forces. These forces may carry out close reconnaissance operations, which involve very low flying. Please do not open fire and abide by the instructions issued to you, in addition to remaining at home.

Second, officials responsible for water and electricity supplies are meeting here, and they are working to draw up steps for the implementation of the emergency plans, and also the oil services. They greet you and inform you that they will do their utmost to supply these services to you as soon as possible.

Third, thanks to our brother residents, especially the Palestinians, for staying at home and abiding by our instructions, and we urge them to urge others to abide by them. We beseech God to keep Kuwait as an oasis of love, good and safety for all.

Citizens To Ration Water

LD2702142691 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1334 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] We have just received the following announcement issued from within Kuwait:

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate.

Brothers and sisters, sons of Kuwait inside Kuwait. O honorable people. The routed forces of oppression and aggression have caused a great deal of damage to the desalination station and the electric power generation installations. Hence we seek your cooperation in conserving this wealth and not to squander it by the rational consumption of water and electricity in the present conditions.

Saudi Arabia

Communique 39 Reviews Joint Forces Operations

LD2602193691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Military Communique No. 39 issued by the Joint Forces and the Theater of Operations Command in Riyadh on 26 February, read by Colonel Ahmad al-Rubya'n—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Military Communique No. 39, issued by the Command of the Coalition Forces and Theater of Operations in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 26 February the 41st day of the Desert Storm operations.

With reference to Communique No. 38, which contained the order of His Royal Highness the commander of the coalition forces and the theater of operations to stop issuing military communiques and to stop holding press briefings until further notice, and considering the success realized by the ground operations and out of the desire of the Command of the Coalition Forces to assure the Saudi citizens and Kuwaiti brothers, as well as the brother residents in the kingdom about the progress of these operations and the victories achieved by the valiant coalition forces, His Royal Highness the commander has decided to resume issuing communiques in a brief form that will not affect the security of the operations.

The progress of the ground operations can be summed up as follows: All the units of the coalition forces are implementing the ground offensive phase of the Desert Storm plan as planned, and with total success. They have occupied the planned targets inside Kuwaiti territory

before the set time, and with the least number of losses. Since the start of the ground operations, the number of coalition forces' martyrs is 13, and the number of wounded is 43.

At 1655 yesterday, a battalion of the aggressor surrendered to one of our land units with all its 730 men and 12 officers, including the battalion commander. As a result of the continuation of the ground operations, and the continuation of the surrender and capture of large numbers of the aggressor's forces; it is difficult to specify the number of prisoners. This has reached more than 30,000 prisoners. More than 8,000 of that total surrendered to our ground forces, the fraternal Egyptian forces, and the forces participating with us from the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states, and 94 to the fraternal Syrian forces.

Since the start of the ground operation, the U.S. forces have lost four aircraft, as follows: one AV-8, whose pilot was rescued; one AV-10, whose two pilots are still missing; one AH-64 Apache, whose pilots have been rescued; and one AV-8 whose pilot is still missing.

At 2032 yesterday, the aggressor launched a Scud missile in the direction of the eastern region of the Kingdom. The warhead fell on a building housing men of the U.S. forces. This resulted in the death of 28 men and the wounding of 100. At 0126 today, the aggressor launched another missile in the direction of the State of Qatar. It fell in the Gulf to the north of the State of Qatar. Thus, since the start of the Desert Storm operation, the total number of Scud missiles launched by the aggressor is 43; 41 in the direction of the Kingdom, one in the direction of the State of Bahrain, and one in the direction of the State of Qatar.

The American, British, and French forces, since the beginning of the ground operations, have destroyed more than 400 tanks and a large number of vehicles, and have captured about 22,000 men of the aggressor. The number of sorties flown by the coalition forces since the beginning of the Desert Storm operation has reached more than 103,000, out of which our Air Force carried out more than 6,500 sorties, the Kuwaiti Air Force 738 sorties, the Bahraini forces 266 sorties, the Qatari Air Force 55, and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] forces 68 sorties.

Military Spokesman Confirms Iraqi Withdrawal

LD2602223291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2127 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh 26 Feb SPA—The spokesman for the coalition forces and the battle theater has confirmed the truth of reports on the withdrawal of large numbers of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Staff Colonel Ahmad al-Rubay'n said in his daily meeting with journalists in Riyadh this evening that "the Iraqi forces are withdrawing in disorder due to the continuous pressure of the coalition forces."

He indicated that the coalition forces are continuing to carry out missions and military operations aimed at liberating Kuwait despite the Iraqi regime's announcement on the withdrawal of its forces from Kuwait. He said: "We are soldiers who carry out the orders we receive from the political leadership, and we will continue toward Kuwait as long as we do not receive orders from the political leadership to stop."

He further said: "The units of the coalition forces achieved their aims earlier than planned," and thought that the achievement of the planned mission earlier than expected means the achievement of the general plan in a short time. Colonel al-Rubay'an indicated in the course of his answers to journalists' questions that the region which has been cleared of barbed wire measures between seven and 10 km.

He also said that "the cleared region is 10 km from the Iraqi border." He stressed that the military operations for the liberation of Kuwait are taking their normal course, away from political influences. He also said that "the surrender of the Iraqi forces to the coalition forces is continuing."

'Dull Explosions' Follow Air Raid Sirens

NC2602204391 Paris AFP in English 2031 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Feb 26 (AFP)—Air raid sirens wailed shortly after 7:OO p.m. (1600 GMT) in the eastern Saudi city of Dhahran. Soon afterwards three dull explosions were heard but there was no indication that these were related.

There were no sightings of Scuds or launchings of U.S. Patriot anti-missile missiles. The incident came less than 24 hours after an Iraqi Scud missile attack late Monday killed 28 U.S. servicemen and wounded 100 at a military barracks here. Air raid sirens also sounded at roughly the same time in the Gulf state of Bahrain.

The all-clear was sounded here shortly after the alert.

Crown Prince Receives U.S. Ambassador

LD2602123991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1150 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Feb (SPA)—Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, his royal highness the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the national guard, received Charles Freeman, U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom, at his office at the al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

Pakistani Military Official Offers Support

LD2302155491 Riyadh SPA in English 1221 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Ar'ar, Saudi Arabia, Feb 23, SPA—Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Mas'ud [name as received]

governor of the Northern Frontier region received here last night General Mirza Aslam Beg, chief of the staff of the Pakistani Armed Forces and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the Pakistani military official reiterated his country's support to the Kingdom under the leadership of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

He demanded that the Iraqi occupation forces should withdraw from Kuwait and that the legitimate government of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, should be restored.

Saudi Commander Meets Korean Military Official

LD2302161591 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and theater of operations, conferred today at 1200 in his office with a Korean military delegation headed by Lt. Gen. Li Yong-hu, vice commander of the combined forces at the Korean Defense Ministry.

During the meeting, which was attended by Major General Dr. 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Fara'idi, director general of the Armed Forces Medical Corps, they discussed numerous military issues, especially in the field of medical services.

Press Reviews Saddam's 'Defeat' in Kuwait

LD2702100191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0305 GMT 27 Feb 91

[From the Press Review]

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 27 Feb (SPA)—Saudi newspapers this morning carried the following main headlines:
The custodian of the two holy mosques sends a message to the prime minister of India;
Shaykh Jabir tells the custodian of the two mosques: "Your stances will be recorded in letters of light;"
The crown prince receives a telephone call from Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and receives the U.S. ambassador;
Bangladeshi receives Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud [Saudi minister of state].
Martial law declared in liberated Kuwait for three months;
The Kingdom does not believe what came out of Iraq yesterday is enough to fulfill the requirement;
A U.S. official says: The joint forces have no ambitions regarding Iraqi territory;
Washington says: Saddam has two option—surrender or defeat;
Bush describes Saddam's speech as outrageous;
Hurd to visit Washington today to discuss the situation in the Arabian Gulf region;
The joint forces destroy 50 percent of Iraqi tanks.

In their commentaries today, Saudi newspapers focused on Saddam Husayn's abominable defeat in the State of Kuwait. The latter country has been returned to its people. As the armies of the joint forces approach Kuwait City, some forces have entered it.

The newspapers stress the need for the overthrow of the tyrant of Baghdad and regard that as an important and pressing demand to extinguish the fuse of sedition, war, and evil in the region and the world.

In its editorial today "AL-MADINAH" says that the tyrant of Iraq has started to withdraw the remnants of his defeated Army from Kuwait. It says that Saddam Husayn feels the great disappointment that has fallen on his head as a result of the succesive defeats suffered by his soldiers in Iraq and Kuwait.

The newspaper points out that the issue no longer seems to hinge on the restoration of Kuwait to its people, which is a settled question, without doubt. The more important issue is punishing the tyrant of Baghdad for the crimes he has personally perpetrated against the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples, and against the Arab peoples and the whole world. [passage omitted]

Radio To Broadcast Urdu Program 25 Feb

LD2402225291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2140 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Feb (SPA)—From 1530 to 1700 [1230 to 1400 GMT] tomorrow [25 February] the radio of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will begin broadcasting a program in Urdu in the Kingdom for those who speak this language.

This was stated by Dr. 'Ali al-Khudayri, deputy undersecretary of the Ministry of Information. In his statement to SPA, he said that broadcasting will be on the following frequencies:
—In Riyadh on an FM frequency of 97.7, and on medium wave at 1422 kHz.
—In Jeddah on an FM freequency of 98, and on medium waves at 558 and 1485 kHz.
—In Dammam on medium wave at 1098 kHz, and on the short wave at 31 meters.

Saddam Chairs Meeting; Message Sent to UN

NC2702154391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1511 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Under the chairmanship of leader President Saddam Husayn, a number of the members of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party as well as a number of state officials met today to discuss the political situation and the stands of other countries on the aggression by America, its allies, and its agents against Iraq. Among the topics discussed at the meeting was Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's address concerning the aggression.

Leader President Saddam Husayn and the conferees praised President Gorbachev's speech on the subject and expressed the hope that the Soviet Union and the other friendly states at the UN Security Council will adopt practical measures to prevent America and its allies from continuing their abominable crime against the people of Iraq and their Armed Forces and property.

Leader President Saddam Husayn yesterday chaired a meeting of the RCC that was attended by the speaker of the National Assembly as well as the minister of culture and information. The conferees discussed the current events and made a decision to send a message to the president of the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general to inform them that the withdrawal [from Kuwait] has been undertaken in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and that what is needed now is to stop the fighting and lift the economic boycott on Iraq.

On the basis of that decision, the foreign minister sent a message to the president of the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general. The message was sent through the Soviet Union. It has been handed to the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency; I have the honor to notify you that the Iraqi Government, as it once again reiterates its consent to fully abide by UN Security Council Resolution 660 for the year 1990, the Iraqi Armed Forces have embarked upon pulling out to the positions they occupied prior to 1 August 1990. [sentence as heard] Hopefully, full withdrawal will be fully completed within the next few hours, although the American and other forces are continuing their attacks against the Iraqi Armed Forces in the course of their withdrawal process.

I would also like to inform you that the Iraqi Government agrees to abide by Resolutions No. 662 for the year 1990 and Resolution 674 for the year 1990, if the UN Security Council issues a resolution providing for an immediate cease-fire and for halting all land, sea, and air military operations, and considers as nonexistent, and consequently null and void, all the bases on which Council Resolutions 661, 665, and 670 for the year 1990 were adopted.

The Iraqi Government asserts its full willingness, immediately after a cease-fire takes effect, to release the prisoners of war and return them to their homelands within a very short time in accordance with the third Geneva convention for the year 1949 and under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Please convey this message to the UN Security Council at once and guarantee its distribution as a council document.

Please accept my respects.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Iraqi Republic
[Dated] 27 February

Saddam Visits 1st Corps Operations Sector 26 Feb

NC2602191491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1905 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has visited the operations sector of the valiant 1st Corps. His excellency met with the staff lieutenant general, commander of the 1st Corps, and the commanders and officers. The leader president inspected the excellent combat preparations made to defeat any aggressive attempt designed to undermine great Iraq's security and sovereignty.

Comparison of Saddam Speech on Withdrawal

NC2602170091

Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1105 GMT on 26 February carries the "text" of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's speech on withdrawal from Kuwait. The INA version has been compared with the referent Baghdad Domestic Arabic version published on pages 14-16 of the 26 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT and found to be identical, allowing the following clarifications:

Page 14, column one, first paragraph, INA version adds: [Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA)—Brother citizens, mujahid President Saddam Husayn has addressed an important speech to the sons of the great Iraqi people; to the valiant men of our heroic Armed Forces, the forces of jihad and faith; to the zealous, the faithful, and the sincere in our glorious Arab nation; to all Muslims and good people in the world; and to the glorious Iraqi women. The following is the text of the president's speech.

In the name.... (supplying introduction);

Same page, column two, first full paragraph, sentence five, INA version reads: ...of life, in relations among states, and.... (deleting "relations among people");

Page 15, column two, first full paragraph, last sentence INA version reads: ...the international community placed dear Palestine's freedom.... (confirming queried word);

Same column, fourth full paragraph, first sentence INA version reads: ...of poverty and fairness and unfairness, faith and... (deleting "richness");

Same paragraph, last sentence INA version reads: Therefore, victory is great, now, and in.... (confirming queried word).

Comparison of Statement on Missile Strikes

NC2502112191

Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1045 GMT on 25 February carries the statement by an Iraqi military spokesman on missile strikes at Saudi Arabia and Israel. The INA version has been compared with the Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic version published on page 17 of the 26 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT and found to be identical, with the following exceptions:

Column two, paragraph two, sentence one make read: ...time when our heroic ground forces are pursuing their greatest jihad, our missile force has continued to direct its blows to the.... (rewording and providing indistinct words);

From paragraph five, only sentence to paragraph six, only sentence make read: ...city of Riyadh.

4. At midnight last night, our heroic missile.... (providing indistinct words);

From paragraph six, only sentence to last paragraph, sentence one make read: ...for military purposes.

5. At dawn today, our heroic missile.... (providing indistinct words).

Last paragraph, from sentence two, to end of item make read: ...be to God. Glory and dignity to the officers and soldiers of our heroic missile force and all the stalwart men of our Armed Forces. (providing indistinct words)

Military Spokesman Announces Withdrawal 'Completed'

NC2702064991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0625 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Statement by military spokesman]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Although the enemy has interfered in the withdrawal of our forces and demonstrated all his cowardly, mean, and lowly characteristics while trying to harm our units which are withdrawing in accordance with the leadership's decision, our Armed Forces, with all their struggling corps, have completed the withdrawal in accordance with the president's speech and the statement announced yesterday morning, 26 February. The last military unit withdrew from Kuwait with the first light of this morning, 27 February. Thus, the withdrawal has actually been completed.

Spokesman on Allied Landing in Dhi Qar Governorate

NC2702085391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0819 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Statement by military spokesman]

[Text] Despite the withdrawal of our Armed Forces, the enemy, pursuing his illusory goals which we warned at an early stage would be the basis for his aggressiveness and military aggression, in implementation of a repugnant Zionist-imperialist scheme, and imagining that he is capable of terrorizing Iraq and the Iraqis, the criminal enemy embarked on acrobatic [bahlawaniyah] movements. He landed airborne troops on the periphery of the Dhi Qar Governorate near the 'Ali air base. The enemy is facing courageous resistance in the area from our valiant Armed Forces, the masses of the people, and the Popular Army. The lowly ones will be defeated and will be sorry when their mistakes and miscalculation become clear to them. They thought that our withdrawal from Kuwait would open the door for them to humiliate Iraq and its people, just as they miscalculated, for example, in 1982, when they thought that what had happened in al-Muhammarah [Iran's occupation of the city] was the beginning of the certain collapse of Iraq's will. Then, Western analysts and their media began to imagine what they have imagined, and the opposite of their illusion was proved to them. Now, the Iraqis will prove to them that their illusion only exists in their failing thoughts and in their desires, which the brave sons of Iraq will foil with the valiance of their stalwart men and their heroic Armed Forces. God is great. Accursed be the lowly.

[Dated] 27 February

Talk: Dhi Qar 'Will Swallow' Americans

NC2702095291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O heroic fighters of the popular army; O sons of Dhi Qar of history and glory. The enemy has carried out an acrobatic and futile movement by landing airborne forces on the peripheries of your governorate. Totally confused, he is knocking on all doors after all doors have been closed in his face and after he has tried all means against Iraq. He has failed in his air war. He has failed in his air raids on Iraq which, he boasts, have exceeded 100,000. He has failed to break Iraq's bone or undermine its glory, strength, and defiance. He has failed in his ground confrontation. His weapons have been smashed on the borders of Kuwait, which he was not able to enter except after the withdrawal of your triumphant forces. He has failed in his naval war. He has failed in his electronic and technological war. Now he is venturing and gambling. The Americans are carrying out acrobatic movements similar to their television serials, imagining

that they can affect the psychology of the Iraqis. The Americans are imagining that they can boost their soldiers' morale and increase their will to fight.

We tell those who have been blinded by hatred, we tell the forces of Bush and his allies: You tried this method two days ago; what was the result? You used your airborne landing in Kuwait; what was your harvest and what was our harvest? Your harvest was disgraceful death and the faithful and struggling Iraqis harvested victory and resolve. This took place in Kuwait just two days ago. How about when you dare to attack deep inside Iraq. Dhi Qar will swallow you. The grandsons of Harithat al-Shaybani will fight you. The heroes of the people's army, the loyal bulwark of our Armed Forces, will fight you. All our masses are waiting for you, O misfits and losers.

Spokesman Claims Four Allied Aircraft Downed

NC2702094791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0931 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Despite the announcement of our withdrawal from Kuwait and despite the execution of this withdrawal by our Armed Forces, the criminal enemy, who justified his aggression with the issue of Kuwait but only meant to harm Iraq's great people, its structure, and independent course, continues his aggression. The enemy planes carried out a series of air raids yesterday and today against our valiant forces and residential and civilian targets inside our beloved Iraq. While targeting the citizens' houses, a number of our innocent people were either martyred and wounded, including women and children.

Our brave ground and air defenses intercepted the enemy's raids on the towns and villages, and managed, with God's help, to shoot down four enemy planes. The banner of great Iraq will continue to fly high with dignity.

[Dated] 27 February

Republican Guards Reportedly Retreating

Forces 'Near Baghdad'

LD2602190991 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 26, IRNA—The U.S.-led forces are still bombarding different Iraqi areas while Iraqi forces pulling out of Kuwait are almost near Baghdad around 19:30 hours (16:00 hours GMT) today.

IRNA correspondents who witnessed the bombardment, said Western warplanes bombed the holy city of al-Najaf twice at 15:45 hours and 16:15 hours (12:15 and 12:45 hours GMT) today.

Iraqi forces together with their military hardware are retreating towards Baghdad in orderly lines from the 'Karbala-Baghdad axis, while 'heavy smoke 'from the burning Kuwaiti oil wells has reached as far north as the holy cities of al-Najaf and Karbala'.

The much-touted units of the Republican Guards can also been seen among the retreating forces.

Black greasy rain is also pouring, disrupting the traffic in the streets. Reports also said that the Iraqi soldiers were welcomed by the people on their way from Karbala' to Baghdad.

The correspondents said that the U.S.-led forces once again raided Baghdad at 20:30 Baghdad time, the explosions of which rocked the whole capital.

Heading for Baghdad

LD2602213491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Aerial attacks by the multinational forces against Baghdad intensified after 1900 today, and huge explosions can be heard from the Iraqi capital. A group of Iranian reporters who are in Baghdad announced this news. They also said that while gentle rain is falling over Baghdad, Iraqi antiaircraft units are in action. The allied bombardment of the city by aircraft continues.

According to this report, dispatched through IRNA, long columns of Iraqi tanks and armored personnel carriers—including the Iraqi Republican Guard—were seen in the southern regions of Iraq heading for the outskirts of Baghdad after withdrawing from Kuwait. The report indicates that tanks, personnel carriers, armored units, artillary, field kitchens, troop trucks and field ambulances are withdrawing toward Baghdad in an orderly manner. People are waving to the troops along the way.

Two Divisions Retreating

AU2702105491 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Paris, Feb 27 (AFP) — Two out of six divisions of the elite Iraqi Republican Guard are "retreating towards Basra" in southern Iraq, the chief of staff of the French Armed Forces General Maurice Schmitt said on Wednesday.

The general confirmed that "one division of the Guard" had been destroyed and announced that "another heavy division, not part of the presidential Guard" had also been neutralised.

The three remaining divisions of the Guard are fighting the allied forces, the general added.

The Guard are up against the armoured vehicles of the 7th U.S. Army corps and the 1st British armoured division.

'Streaming' Back To Basra

LD2702114691 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Excerpt] The pilots who went off to Iran chose not to fight, according to General Schmitt, the chief of staff of the French Armed Forces. Two divisions of the Republican Guard are streaming back toward Basra, the general stated. He confirmed that a guard division has been destroyed and announced that a heavy division which does not belong to the Presidential Guard has also been neutralized. He attributed the collapse of the Iraqis to a loss of confidence by the soldiers. [passage omitted]

IRNA Reports Continued Allied Raids in South

LD2702062591 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Khorramshahr, Khuzestan Prov., Feb. 27, IRNA—Iraq's port-city of Basra and the axes between this city and southern parts of Iraq were under heavy air and missile attacks of the invading U.S.-led allied forces Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

The attacks were more intensive from midnight (08:30 GMT) till 06:00 hours local time (02:30 GMT) Monday.

The sound of explosions in the port city of Basra and its surrounding areas were constantly heard in Khorramshahr, Abadan and Khosrow-Abad region in this southern province neighbouring southern Iraq.

At least 50 consecutive explosions were heard here from 15:30 GMT till 20:30 GMT Tuesday. The explosions were particularly powerful at 16:08, 17:20, 17:25, 19:28, 19:29, 20:10 and 20:14 GMT.

The attacks by the invading forces seem to have been carried out against concentration centers and columns of the Iraqi soldiers withdrawing from Kuwait.

Missile and air attacks on targets inside the Iraqi territory continued till this morning while the sky over the region is blanketed with a thick black smoke.

Paper Claims Missiles Destroy Israeli Suburbs

NC2602121391 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Feb 91 p 1

[By AL-THAWRAH correspondent]

[Text] Amman—Arrivals in Amman from the occupied territories have said that the Ramat Gan area, which is located south of Tel Aviv and includes industrial and military installations, has been completely wiped out by Iraqi missile attacks. They added that Tel Aviv's northern suburb, which also includes similar installations, was also destroyed by two al-Husayn missiles.

Arrivals also said that the recent missile attacks were completely camouflaged because places hit by missiles, news of the ineffectiveness of the Patriot missiles, and the results of the attacks are being concealed in an attempt to counter the psychological, moral, and material damage being caused by media reports.

Arrivals also said that the Arab citizens are not allowed to enter many areas in the occupied territories believed to be hit by the Iraqi missiles. But Arabs under occupation since 1948 have seen the traces of the attacks, which have not been experienced by the Zionist entity since its establishment.

Paper Says Ground War Decision 'Ridiculous Farce'

NC2502134391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that Iraq has been waiting impatiently for the showdown on land, full of determination to stand fast, gain victory, and inflict defeat on Bush's army and the army of his imperialist and Zionist allies.

In its editorial today, and under the headline "They Started Their Land Showdown and We Started To Reap Them," the paper emphasizes that Iraq had been waiting vigilantly, armed with the determination, faith, patience, endurance, and the manlihood of its fighters whose will is fortified by the rights.

The paper affirms that all the ultimatums voiced by "Don Quixote" Bush have not discouraged Iraq and its blessed soldiers, adding that the treachery of that foolish criminal made his decision to mount the ground battle a ridiculous farce which is repeated detestably in his venomous propaganda.

The paper adds that criminal Bush picked the timing for his good- for-nothing announcement at the same time the UN Security Council was to meet to consider the Soviet peace initiative which was supported by Iraq and welcomed by several states. If desperate Bush thinks that his maneuver will succeed, we tell him that we are confident that such maneuvers could work with people other than the Iraqis, the paper says.

AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that Iraq has spelled it out and made it explicit that it is fighting the showdown between everything good against everything evil. If Bush or others are capable of waging war, the key to ending this war lies solely in the hands of Iraq, the paper concludes.

Baghdad Paper Cited on Confidence in Victory

NC2602140591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH underlines that Iraq not only defies the insanity of the malevolent, the greedy, and the deceptive traitors, but it also challenges their weapons and massed armies. Iraq is challenging 30 states whose politicians are filled with

accumulated hatred for the awakening in Iraq of the faithful, as well as with wickedness, vileness, and depravity.

In an editorial, the paper says great Iraq is fighting with all the Iraqis—old and young, women and children alike—like it has never fought before. This decisive and crucial showdown has been imposed on Iraq and it has to fight in the showdown of all faith against all evil, blasphemy, and injustice, the paper says.

The paper adds that God will [word indistinct] the Iraqis and the leader of their victorious march Saddam Husayn, because they defended His sanctities and laws. The Almighty will bless the Iraqis and their leader because they have been faithful to their promises and obedient to His orders. The Iraqis will continue to praise the Almighty when the evil of the villains is driven out of their way, when the schemes of every malevolent, lowly nonbeliever is deterred, and when victory is recorded in the future for the Arab and Muslim nation after centuries of past defeat and breakdown.

Baghdad Radio Commentaries, Talks on Situation

Fight for Sovereignty, Dignity

NC2602154191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1356 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Sons of our heroic Iraqi people, sons of our glorious Arab nation, O free and honest men in the four corners of the earth: This is great Iraq which has fulfilled its promise. Iraq has fought in the most honorable and most courageous manner. It has stood fast and triumphed. This is the Iraq which, in a resounding Arab voice, rejected hegemony, control, and subservience and fought for the sake of the homeland's freedom, the honor of its citizens, and the dignity of mankind.

This is Iraq which has translated its words into deeds, made up its mind, fought, and triumphed. Iraq triumphed with you and for you. The 30 states of the aggression, led by the United States and war criminal Bush, bared their fangs and revealed their premeditated designs of aggression not only against Iraq but also against all Arabs—against their resurgence, their will, and their independent decisionmaking—and against mankind at large.

This is Iraq, the leader of the faithful congregation under Saddam Husayn, the militant knight whom God supports, which fights all armies of aggression and triumphs for the sake of the nation and to avenge the nation's wounds, sufferings, and tribulations. This is Iraq which strikes the Zionist hinterland and the treacherous Zionist war machine for the first time in contemporary Arab history. This is Iraq which breaks the scales of strategic parity and tips the balance for the first time in favor of the Arabs.

This is your heroic Iraq, O honest Arabs and free Muslims and all toilers of this earth. Iraq will remain loyal to its principles and to its pledge. It will also remain committed to its Arab affiliation and human values against all forms of opression, injustice, and enslavement. This is your heroic Iraq which has stood with all this loftiness and vigor in the face of the armies and fleets of 30 states without batting an eye and without wavering in its decisionmaking. This is your victorious Iraq which offers you its victory and its steadfastness. It offers all this to this nation and to the toilers of this earth. Through you, Iraq will remain lofty with its decision, will, people, and Army, and with its mujahid leader Saddam Husayn whom God suports.

This is the Iraq which we protect with our souls. We will fight a thousand years if necessary to safeguard its dignity and sovereignty. We will triumph, God willing, and will chant in unison: Sweet is victory with the help of God.

'Historic Rights Will Not Be Lost'

NC2602162391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1056 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] This is Iraq, these are its positions, and this is its course. Iraq has caused an awakening in the human, Arab, and national conscience. It has revealed inherited Arab treasures of manliness, heroism, and human values which the imperialists and the agent regimes tried to suppress. They tried to suppress these qualities so that this nation would not be able to take the initiative and would remain subservient to the foreigner, kneeling at his feet and subject to his will.

God, however, prepared struggling Iraq, with its unique leader, Saddam Husayn, who twisted the arm of time and molded the new and strong Iraq. Iraq brought chronic Arab problems before the eyes of the world for consideration after they had been ignored for a long time. Iraq proved to the Zionists that they stand on shifting sands in Palestine and that the land of Palestine is not a vacation resort for them. The land of Palestine is Arab land, home to a people who have lived there for thousands of years. The falsehood which imperialism wanted to impose here will never become a reality, no matter what pretexts are used or how much time passes.

The coming era inaugurated by Iraq is an Arab era with all its values and principles, as long as Iraq is sound and stands in the face of the challenges. Its historic rights will not be lost, with God's help.

'Conspirators,' 'Traitors' Threatened

NC2602140791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1032 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Yes, O valiant Iraqi Army, you have fulfilled the pledge and fought against 30 large and small states led by the big power that taught them magic and evil. Your fighting was heroic and legendary in a manner that

achieved the victory aspired by any brave soldier who is sincere to his people and homeland. Yes, O valiant Iraqi Army, we are triumphant in this battle, in the confrontation of barbarism and treason, and in our adherence to our principles.

O mujahid leader, we will continue to sing your dear song how sweet victory is with God's help and to maintain the strong mujahidin spirit to confront the enemies, plots, and treasons. You were, O leader, the guide for this spirit in all our triumphant battles we have waged under your leadership. We will maintain this spirit to take the conspirators and traitors to account. We will pursue them with this spirit in their dirty dens. These are the people who have bartered guidance for error but their traffic is profitless, and they have lost true direction. [Koranic verse]

Yes, O mujahid leader, we are triumphant, and the proof is this miraculous steadfastness which our people have displayed throughout the months of confrontation, and our great army's heroic confrontation against the armies of 30 states.

O mujahid leader, we are confident that with you, we will continue to confront the evil aggressors if they continue with their tyranny. We will not accept less than continuing to hold our heads high with pride and triumph while singing your dear song, how sweet victory is with God's help.

'Victory Against Forces of Evil' Hailed

NC2602143591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0937 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O Iraqi heroes, you have triumphed. With your legendary steadfastness, you scored a victory against the forces of evil, tyranny, and atheism which Bush mustered against your great Iraq. With your sons' heroic fighting on the combat fronts, you triumphed against the armies of 30 countries that tried to humiliate you but were instead humiliated by God and by your sons' resolve and insistence on inflicting a collective defeat on the aggressors.

O Iraqis, you triumphed after you brought all the Arab nation's causes to the forefront, especially the cause of Palestine which has been occupied for more than 40 years. You triumphed after you (?revolutionized) an entire nation against the tyrants and infidels, and after the issue of the poor and their right to what they have been robbed of by the rich became the cause of the entire Arab nation and all Islamic nations.

O Iraqi heroes, you triumphed in the first genuine confrontation with imperialism and Zionism and baptized the revolutionary slogans with the blood of the martyrs. O courageous people, you triumphed when, after relying on God, your missiles pounded the Zionist entity's capital and military installations in occupied Palestine in the first Arab action of this kind in the 40 years of the Zionist occupation of Palestine and when you exposed the Zionist assumptions about their own security as the myths they are, myths that are only convincing to those who are mentally deficient.

O Iraqis, you triumphed when you challenged the will of the evil ones, confronted their ground assault, and repulsed the large-scale offensive and when the aggressors swam in their own blood.

O Iraqis, you are today celebrating the glory you achieved, the historic threshold to which you brought the Arab nation, and the freedom to which you clung. O Iraqis, you are today illuminating a new page in the history of the Arabs and Muslims and a future of jihad and adherence to right. God is the supporter of the believers. God is great.

Caution Urged Against 'Treachery'

NC2602150391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Thus, brothers, as the leader president said, caution is needed, and vigilance against their treachery and the cunning of their cowards is always necessary. God willing, you will complete your withdrawal from Kuwait today. You will not, however, retreat from your principles and you will not abandon your values of manhood and Arabism.

You have performed the task, written an unprecedented epic of heroism, and opened a chink in the armor of colonialism and U.S. imperialism that will be difficult for them to close and to keep the winds of change from blowing through it so that the world may breathe the air of freedom, dignity, and humanity.

May your hands be saved and may God bless you. May your hands remain on the trigger as long as the traitors—imperialists, Zionists, and agents—keep betraying your homeland, people, and nation. As your great leader said, you will see how your heroic feat and deeds of jihad will remain a beacon illuminating the new history of this nation. You will see how the Third World peoples will see the valiant saga you have written as a unique example of defiance and removing the yoke from the oppressed.

Yea, O brothers, the showdown is collective. Your steadfastness alone in the face of the most ferocious onslaught in modern history will remain an epic to be recited by this and coming generations in your homeland and nation and around the world. O mujahid people, it is

enough that you have exposed the conspiracy and put their alleged human principles to a hard test. Thus you succeeded and the value of your mettle has become known, while they and their agents failed, and the meanness of their intentions and deeds has become apparent to the entire world.

The conspiracy has been great. It was so bad that it was aimed at your homeland and people in terms of their land, existence, and dignity. But you foiled the conspiracy and scattered it in the wind. Here you stand with your resolve and your weapons, remaining proud and great, as we have always known you, unyielding to the will of the rancorous ones and agents.

Troops: 'Hold Your Heads High'

NC2602231891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2213 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Dear brothers: Over the past eight months, our valiant Armed Forces and our steadfast people have been engaged in a legendary and unparalleled confrontation with the most ferocious aggression in contemporary history in which sophisticated fleets, weapons, and ill-gotten funds taken from the treasonous oil shaykhs were used. Throughout these months, your Army has shown itself to be capable of accomplishing hard missions. Thus, it has waged its jihad in the best possible way and confronted 30 countries, thus demonstrating endurance and firmness. Its heroic feats will assure its proper position at all times.

The mother of battles is the threshhold of a glory opened to you. Hence, you put things in their proper place and revived interest in the Palestine question after it had been suppressed by conspiracy, equivocation, and treason. Your right has shown itself to be capable of engaging the gathering of evil and the countries who are parties to the aggression. Thus, you engaged with evil in the best possible way. Thus, your victory has been recorded over the skies of Iraq. Yes, brothers, you are the makers of victory. Consequently, it is appropriate for you to hold your heads high.

Troops' 'Dignity' Praised

NC2702073291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0619 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O sons of my beloved homeland: No oppressors can harm your dignity, honor, efforts, and lofty construction as long as the minds are united and the hands linked together on the road of construction and glory.

No tyrants can jeopardize the soil of the cherished homeland on which the Iraqis have recorded their epics in defense of every atom of sand and the free will. The soil of the cherished homeland is fortified thanks to the noble sons of Iraq and brave knight Saddam Husayn.

Army, People To Use 'All Weapons'

NC2702093591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0828 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Although Iraq has announced its withdrawal from Kuwait, and although our valiant and triumphant forces completed their withdrawal at first light today pursuant to President Saddam Husayn's orders, the American aggressors and their scoundrel allies are still attacking our Armed Forces, and their politicians and media trumpets are still repeating their illusions regarding this offensive. In addition, the evil aggressors and their despicable agents, Fahd and Husni and their likes, are premeditatedly trying to obstruct the issuance of a UN Security Council resolution on a cease-fire. All this, among other things, strongly proves that there is a big conspiracy targeting Iraq itself and its valiant Armed Forces and that the issue goes far beyond what is being said about Kuwait and legitimacy. In fact, this is a conspiratorial scheme planned by Zionism, and the administrations of the criminals, Bush, Major, and Mitterrand, have pledged, as has become clear, to implement it to impose humiliation and hegemony on Iraq and the Arab nation and to extinguish every candle of light carried by the independent national regimes in the world. However, let these criminal aggressors understand that the withdrawal of the valiant Iraqi forces from Kuwait does not mean that they have relinquished their will to fight, to confront the aggression, and to bury it. Our brave Army is fully prepared to defend Iraq and to crush the aggressors' conceit and arrogance. The depth of this Army is all the people, men, women, children, and old people. Everyone is alert to confront the aggressors and to fight them with all weapons and resources.

By its withdrawal, Iraq has foiled all the pretexts that the aggressors used as a cover. What they have done, and what they are doing now, goes beyond the resolutions which they made themselves and dictated to the world in the name of the Security Council. Their injustice and unfairness notwithstanding, those resolutions did not authorize the criminal aggressors to starve Iraq and bar medicine from reaching its citizens. Those resolutions did not authorize them to bomb residential quarters and civilian installations, including places of worship, schools, hospitals, shelters, bridges, and telephone exchanges. But the criminal aggressors, who manufactured those resolutions by themselves, have authorized themselves to do what they want in the name of, and under cover of those resolutions. They have taken the slogan "the new world order" as an excuse not only to destroy Iraq but also to humiliate the peoples of the world and impose absolute U.S. hegemony on the world.

But the scoundrel aggressors must understand that Iraq is something different and that the people of Iraq cannot tolerate aggression, humiliation, and submissiveness to the aggressors' tyranny. They are a warrior, valiant, and courageous people, who totally rally behind their hero

leader Saddam Husayn and his valiant Army, and they are ready to fight on every inch on land and will accept no less than the just, honorable peace. Therefore, the aggressors must not interpret Iraq's concern to spare bloodshed in any way other than what it really means and not give that concern any dimension other than its real dimension. In any case, they must not think that the Iraqis can relinquish their honor, dignity, and national and pan-Arab pride, regardless of the barbarism of aggression and the arrogance of the aggressors. The Iraqis are educated, cautious people, who are mobilized to face all circumstances and possibilities and will not accept even one minute of humiliation in life.

National, Pan-Arab Jihad Urged

NC2702125091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1017 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O valiant Iraqi fighters, it has been unequivocally proven that the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against lofty Iraq is not aimed at liberating anybody, applying a law, or at anything of this kind. The aggression is aimed against Iraq itself with all its cultural heritage and growing force. Therefore, their aggression against our lofty country continued to achieve this colonialist objective. However, great Iraq, which is experienced in epics, will continue to fight them until it roots them out, forcing them to retreat in failure and disgrace.

Our battle against the aggressive invaders is a national and pan-Arab battle. In accordance with all criteria, it is the most honorable battle. Everything will be cheap for the sake of defending the homeland and safeguarding its dignity and loftiness.

Let us advance toward the barbaric invaders with all our force and determination to defeat them and make them taste the bitter death they deserve.

The continuation of aggression is evidence of their ambitions. Let us strike at their heads which covet our lofty Iraq. Let your nation be the one that has faith in its God and leads the ranks toward jihad. Beware your enemy and the enemy of God. Rub his head in the mud. Your national and pan-Arab lofty jihad is a defense of the principles in which you believed and the future which you extracted through your long struggle from the claws of darkness, barbarism, and backwardness.

The American, French, and British highwaymen who are launching aggression against you are old colonialists. They are spreading darkness, barbarism, and backwardness.

Let us wage jihad, a jihad that cannot be matched with other jihad, to defeat the infidel aggressors. God is great. And victory is our lot, God willing.

Time for Allies To 'Come to Their Senses'

NC2702145391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1256 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, our heroic and steadfast people have never enjoyed such national vigor and such awareness as they do now. The great achievement scored by our valiant Armed Forces in the ground battle has enhanced our militant people's self-confidence and sense of ability. The blatant designs of aggression have also confirmed the reality of the international alliance and the nature of its evil objectives and have alerted the masses of our people to the perils engulfing the homeland.

The pillars of aggression and evil had been awaiting only an announcement of the intention to withdraw from Kuwait. However, when the withdrawal took place in accordance with the formula devised by our Armed Forces and when this withdrawal became an indisputable reality, the procrastination began and the undeclared objectives of the evil aggression were exposed. The attempt by the United States and its allies to prevent the issuance of a cease-fire resolution is only one of their treacherous efforts to obstruct the UN Security Council's determination to attain peace and to check the aggressors.

Our valiant Armed Forces, which are fully prepared and on a state of alert, and our great people, who are experiencing every moment of the epic being written by their Armed Forces, will not surrender their gains and they will not relinquish their freedom. Our people will not permit the aggressors and invaders to harm Iraq's honor and dignity.

Sacrifices are easy to make for the sake of Iraq, and our noble people will continue with their unique militant offerings and with their self-denial for the sake of the safety of their homeland and to protect its pure soil from the filth of the infidel invaders.

There is still time for the aggressors to come to their senses, retreat from their evil course, accept peace, and respond to logic. Otherwise, the lessons they will be taught at the hands of our Army and people will be harsher than they expect.

Third World Ties With Allies

NC2702001391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2142 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Excerpts] The army of believers—Iraq's great sons—have manifested the determination of justice, the limits of strength, and the will to stay on the path of dignity and honor in their great historic battle, which they waged courageously. Iraq confronted the armies of 30 countries, some of which bear the title of superpower and

others big power, along with all their developed weaponry, equipment, and material resources, and given everything else they needed by the corrupt and immoral oil shaykhs to confront Iraq and wage the indiscriminate and perfidious aggression against it. Developed military bases, finances, and means to continue the aggression are foremost among these requirements.

The army of believers has waged the whole mother of battles with a spirit of steadfastness, patience, and vigor of challenge. The 40 days of military confrontation, and the months of economic and policitical confrontation before that, are a unique example of all the Iraqi people's courage, and their perseverence in bearing all difficulties for the sake of their principles, honor, and dignity. They have even turned this duel into an unprecedented mythical confrontation. They have recorded epics that will be eternal in the memory and language of Iraq, the Arab homeland, and the world. [passage omitted]

There is enough pride, dignity, and honor for the Iraqi people in realizing that they have performed their honorable duty for their historic leadership and for their true and struggling leader Saddam Husayn. They were careful to be in the right as their leader wanted them to be—a people of armies, and an army that spreads out among all loyal Iraqis.

This was the prelude to the factors behind the aggressive gathering's escalation, with all their grudges, discrimination, and aggression against the Iraqi people. They used this duel as a cover to vent all their poisons and assert their sick and vengeful spirits on Iraq and its people. This clearly exposed the immorality of the alliance of aggression and infidelity, the loss of all claims regarding a balanced and level-headed policy made by its various parties, the false and hypocritical concern they revealed regarding human rights, and their attempts at concealing the double standards they applied in dealing with international laws to realize their evil goals and base aggressive interests.

The confrontation between the Iraqis and the gathering of aggression and infidelity has clarified many facts for the international community without any of the covers or well-known ways to mislead or polish them up. One of the most important results which should make the sons of great Iraq even prouder is that they are the ones who made this happen. They are the ones who made failing Bush, his administration, and all those with him in the evil alliance pay a price and sacrifice themselves. This places the obligation on the international community, especially on Third World countries, and its developing and poor nations, to review their relations with the parties to the alliance of the aggression. They should be aware to the truth behind every evil party.

It is enough pride and honor for the sons of great Iraq that they performed their duty and awoke a whole world to the evils of the evil and the grudges of the begrudging, and that they placed their national and pan-Arab causes in the right places; that is, at the forefront of all urgent international issues for which just and honorable solutions must be found to secure the stability and safety of the region and the stability of the Arabs and Muslims, and to preserve the holy shrines and the values of good, justice, and peace.

Paper Praises Nation's 'Legendary Steadfastness'

NC2702090391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0632 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] In an article headlined "History Will Remain a Witness to Our Steadfastness," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The legendary steadfastness characteristic of our valiant army is not detached from its red-letter history of struggle. This steadfastess has been [words indistinct] which our heroic armed forces have added to their bright record. For the first time in modern history, the army of one state has stood against the allied armies of 30 states.

The Iraqi Army's steadfastness against this ferocious onslaught in the past seven months is a source of pride for all of the Arabs and all the third world states. The imperialists have always raised a heavy stick in the face of persecuted people. The Iraqi Army has been able to stop it from being raised on its head.

Our people have shown great examples of bravery, fortitude, and patience in the face of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist tyranny. They have borne the full brunt of the air and missile attacks against civilian targets in Iraq, including places of worship, cultural sites, residential areas, hospitals, and schools. Their patience has been based on the pride in their dignity [words idistinct]. If George Bush has filled the world with his boastfulness about his strength, it is sufficient for Iraqis to be proud that they have stood fast in the face of his forces and the forces he has gathered from all over the world. [words indistinct]

Jordanian Papers Report on Siutation

People's Morale 'Very High'

NC2602154591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Feb 91 pp 1,13

[By Lima Nabil]

[Excerpt] Baghdad—It seems that the Iraqis' morale is very high. They chanted slogans as they received news of the victories achieved by their brave forces in clashes along the battlefront the night before last night and this morning—clashes in which the American and allied forces suffered heavy losses.

The news of these victories and of the al-Husayn and Hijarat al-Sijjil missiles launched against Israel and Saudi Arabia added to the pride of the Iraqis, who said that last night has been the most difficult night since the outbreak of the war. The allied forces carried out 20 air raids on Baghdad and other Iraqi cities.

Heavy smoke has spread over Baghdad since yesterday, Monday, and hampered the air raids. Sirens were heard several times during the day, but no explosions were heard. This means that these natural and artificial clouds were very useful.

A Soviet military expert in Baghdad told AL-RA'Y that the outcome of any battle depends on the first strike and the progress of war during the first 72 hours, which, he added, are in favor of Iraq.

A Cuban military expert also spoke to AL-RA'Y about yesterday's battles, expressing admiration, elaborating on the progress of the battle, and revealing many points of weakness in the allied forces during the battle. He expressed astonishment over the landing of an airborne force behind the Iraqi forces in the al-Manaqish area west of the city of Kuwait, and said it was a big mistake because that force was surrounded and annihilated by the brave Iraqi forces.

In telephone contacts with an Arab news agency in Baghdad, some residents of Kuwait also expressed astonishment over news of the occupation of Kuwait announced by the allied forces. They swore they did not see any soldier of the allied forces approaching the front lines of the Iraqi forces, which are still in their positions.

A responsible Iraqi source challenged the U.S. Administration and their allies to allow their media organs to cover the battles directly in order to assess the losses.

Press correspondents in Baghdad are talking about Iraq's intention of organizing a tour of journalists of the front lines to acquaint themselves with the progress of the battle and the true victor in the "mother of battles." [passage omitted]

SAWT AL-SHA'B on Battles, POW's

NC2702171091 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Feb 91 pp 1, 13

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpts] Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait was not surprising here in Baghdad. However, the surprise was the rapid withdrawal that began while crushing battles were raging and the brave Iraqi forces and hostile allied forces were attacking each other. [passage omitted]

SAWT AL-SHA'B was assured by a reliable source that yesterday's battles were bloody and that the Iraqi artillery and field missiles played a prominent role in confusing the allied forces. The Iraqi forces have fired 250,000 artillery shells over the past 24 hours, either killing or wounding thousands of allied soldiers, according to information from the battlefields. Well-informed sources also said that the vanguards of the hostile allied prisoners of war [POW's] have begun arriving in the Iraqi rear lines after passing through some Iraqi cities where citizens saw the heroic deeds and victories of their brave sons.

SAWT AL-SHA'B was also assured that the evacuation of allied POW's of various nationalities would continue along with the withdrawal process. At the same time, Iraqi officials refused to give any figures regarding the POW's, who are numbered in the thousands. The Iraqi officials said: Let the leaders of the allied states deceive their peoples. We, they added, will return POW's in accordance with the allied military statements so that these leaders' peoples may question them on the fate of the others.

Meanwhile, brutal and intensive air raids continued round the clock while the capital of Baghdad was bathing in the heavy rains of victory.

Retired Officers Said To Call For Revolt

AU2702110791 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 27 Feb 91 p 4

[Amir Taheri report: "Officers Call for Revolt Against Saddam"]

[Text] A group of 30 Iraqi Army officers has called on Saddam Husayn to entrust the leadership of the Iraqi troops to a "committee of competent military officials." This was learned from Iraqi opposition circles yesterday.

The source claimed that parts of this letter became known through an Iraqi military attache at an "embassy in Western Europe." The publication of more details might endanger the lives of the officers, the source said.

This letter was apparently signed by three retired generals, including the former chief of staff Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khazraji. According to the Iraqi sources, the letter was also signed by nine retired colonels. It is not clear whether active officers signed the appeal to the Iraqi leader as well.

General al-Khazraji was removed from office last November after he had informed Saddam Husayn that the Iraqi Armed Forces are not in a position to win a battle against the allied coalition in Kuwait.

After his dismissal, al-Khazraji was further humiliated. Saddam Husayn said he "was one of those who are not courageous enough to wage a heroic battle." Al-Khazraji was one of the few Iraqi heroes of the eight-year war with Iran.

Al-Khazraji was replaced by General Husayn Rashid al-Takriti, Saddam's cousin, who is married to the president's oldest daughter. Al-Takriti was a former commander of the Presidential Guard, and was heavily criticized because of his poor achievement in the battles of Hamid and Fao against Iran in 1981 and 1988.

The first signs of dissent among the Iraqi Armed Forces became apparent when armed units fired shots in the air after Saddam Husayn had announced Iraq's readiness to withdraw from Kuwait on the radio on 15 February. Later, some Iraqi units refused to fight in Kuwait.

According to military experts, the low degree of resistance that the allied coalition noted when capturing Iraqi positions in Kuwait might partly be due to differences of opinion among commanding officers.

French military sources believe that the majority of the Iraqi Air Force pilots fled to Iran last month because of "political divergence" with Saddam Husayn's policy. The majority of the Iraqi Air Force pilots are Shiites, and, for this reason they are—allegedly—unhappy about the rule of the mainly Sunnite Ba'th Party. Saddam Husayn's lack of trust in his Air Force became apparent during the war against Iran, when the major part of the Air Force was ordered to fly to Jordan, which meant that it was excluded from hostilities for quite some time.

Iraqi sources in exile, which are supported by Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, claim that they have established contact with "patriotic officers," with the intention of "organizing actions to save the nation." Both Great Britain and France are believed to have contacted Saddam Husayn's opponents. Meanwhile, efforts have become known that are aimed at convincing Washington to recognize the Iraqi opposition as a legitimate force.

Older Iraqi Army officers who are not members of the ruling party allegedly hesitate to take a step in this direction, because they are afraid of the Presidential Guard, which has better arms. However, it seems clear that the allied coalition is now planning the destruction of the main units of this Presidential Guard in the Iraqi port of Basra.

Generals Mustafa al-Naqib and Ibrahim Dawood [name as published] have sent messages to the Iraqi Armed Forces, appealing to them to rise against Saddam Husayn, and to "wrench a national victory from the clutches of the defeat that the dictator inflicted upon our country." Both generals are allegedly in Saudi Arabia, where they are merely waiting to join an Iraqi Army unit that plans a military operation against the present government.

Islamic Body Reportedly Asks Saddam To Resign

LD2602171791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Please listen to a news item that I have just received: The head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] has asked Saddam Husayn to resign to maintain the unity and independence of Iraq, and to hand over Iraqi state and command centers to the Iraqi people.

According to the Central News Unit, in a statement, the head of SAIRI condemned U.S. actions in neutralizing political efforts for an end to the Persian Gulf war and warned the multinational forces against the occupation of Iraqi soil. He announced: The people and the Armed Forces of Iraq will not accept a puppet regime imposed by the United States and Western countries.

People, Army Urged To Oust Saddam

LD2502114991 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The National Committee promised the proud people of Iraq and their heroic Army to stand firmly by the side of the steadfast Iraqi people against the tyrant and his clique. The committees appealed to the brave Iraqi Army, the army of heroism, to unite with the people's forces in order to topple the one who is destroying Iraq.

Shamir Comments on Saddam Speech, Peace Process

TA2602122191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1120 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dov Gilhar at the Knesset building in Jerusalem following the meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee—live]

[Text] [Gilhar] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting has just ended, and the prime minister is with us now. Mr. Shamir, the war is undoubtedly going to end soon. Will a conclusion of this war without the total elimination of Saddam Husayn be satisfactory for Israel?

[Shamir] I believe Israel is interested—it sees this as a matter necessary for its safety and well-being—in having this person, Saddam Husayn, disappear from the international arena.

[Gilhar] Do you think this should be done through military means—battles to the very bitter end—or through political pressure—posing an uncompromising condition?

[Shamir] I do not want to talk of means or ways. This is not in our hands. We do not decide on the conclusion of the campaign. I think that the main point is that Saddam Husayn will no longer rule the course of affairs in the Middle East.

[Gilhar] Israel has not yet reacted through military moves to the missile attacks launched against it. If the war ends without an Israeli reaction, does this mean an erosion of Israel's deterrence policy?

[Shamir] This has nothing to do with deterrence. The whole world, including all regional nations, knows that Israel's power to defend its security is very serious.

[Gilhar] Mr. Shamir, at a meeting of the Likud faction yesterday, you spoke of very heavy pressures you expect at the end of the war. Your deputy, David Levi, is prepared to talk also with the Palestinians who stand on the roofs [in the territories to express joy over missile attacks on Israel]. Is it possible that you will give up anything of the intact Greater Israel for a true peace?

[Shamir] At the Likud faction meeting I did not speak of heavy pressure on Israel. I am not expecting such pressure. It seems to me that the world is sufficiently aware that the Likud is immune to any pressure today. We are prepared to hold negotiations with the entire Arab world.

[Gilhar] I have not yet received your answer on the point of ceding territories for peace.

[Shamir] Well, we and everybody else know what our position is, after all. The Likud believes it is not necessary to cede territories and parts of the State of Israel's map in order to achieve peace.

[Gilhar] Mr. Shamir, Mr. Peres yesterday said he heard from people who had recently arrived from Syria that the Syrians are prepared to enter negotiations with us on condition that the Palestinian problem is discussed first, and the Golan Heights second.

[Shamir] Look, we do not accept conditions, but we are prepared to speak with Syria without conditions.

[Gilhar] On these two issues too, right?

[Shamir] We are willing to speak with Syria without conditions.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1125 GMT on 26 February reports Shamir's reaction as follows: "Yitzhaq Shamir said he does not know what the character of the end of the Gulf war will be, and therefore he cannot react for the time being (to Saddam Husayn's speech)." The report continues: "Shamir added that the Middle East negotiations may take place at the second stage, after Gulf affairs are settled. He also noted that the government's peace initiative is still valid, although it is possible that in the course of negotiations and contacts with the different concerned elements we will have to change it, add clauses to it, and flesh it out."]

Shamir Message to Mitterrand on 'Friendly Ties'

TA2602182891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has sent a message to French President Francois Mitterrand. The message was delivered by the chairman of the Jewish communities in France. Gid'on Kouts reports from Paris:

Good evening—first the bad news from Paris: The first—and hopefully last—two French soldiers were killed today in the battle with the Iraqi Republican Guard. This report, incidentally, has not been officially released here, but Jean (Kahn), the president of the Jewish community, who conferred with French President Francois Mitterrand a short while ago, heard this from him and expressed the community's condolences.

Jean (Kahn) gave Mitterrand a message from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir against the backdrop of tension between the two countries. The prime minister wanted to express Israel's desire for continued friendly ties with France and described Israel's gratitude for France's role in and contribution to the war.

For his part, President Mitterrand expressed a similar interest in mutually friendly ties despite differences of opinion, which should not affect them. He reiterated France's commitment to Israel's security.

Levi Discusses Postwar Middle East, U.S. Aid

TA2702072591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0603 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Hayim Zissowitz and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning. There has been some talk about a new order in the Gulf, the U.S. role in it, our future relations with the United States, and the next stage of the peace process. The U.S. status has been elevated. Are you afraid that the United States might pressure us more or be more impatient with us than before?

[Levi] Those who consider our many friends in the world should ask themselves: What would we have aspired to? Who would we have wanted to see get stronger, the United States or another element? What is best for Israel? From that outlook, everything should be done to coordinate the future moves with that selfsame United States, Israel's great friend. There is no need for fear, which would imply that we are afraid of some process. After all, peace is Israel's goal.

[Zissowitz] It seems to me that somewhat more jarring notes can already be discerned in the exchanges with the United States. This was noted already in the tone that was used toward your colleague, Minister Arens, in the United States; and is now already evident when Israel's reported request for aid to the tune of $1 billion, came up against a cool, if not brash, U.S. response. Do the new tunes indicate some trend in bilateral relations?

[Levi] Look, a great measure of circumspection should be exercised in both expressions and definitions. In the final analysis, we must realize that the United States is at war. It bears on its shoulders an enormously heavy load. I would, first of all, thank the Lord that this is the case and that the picture is not different. Second, one must never forget that the United States has been continuing to assist Israel in every respect, providing us with economic, military, and other forms of aid. We do have our arguments, but these must not be confused with hostility, as we often do. I would like....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] Mr. Foreign Minister, for a few weeks now, you have been calling for preparations for the postwar era, urging Israel to lead rather than be led in peace arrangements. Does this square with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks two days ago at the Likud faction meeting that we will have to muster all our wisdom and sophistication to stand up to strong political forces and that we will not run away or be intimidated?

[Levi] I do not think he had the United States in mind. Besides, wisdom and sophistication are needed all the time, particularly during negotiations. Israel is not running away from peace; it is Israel which has more often than not come out with peace initiatives. The fact that the Arab countries have consistently rejected them puts the blame for the freeze on them.

[Golan] You are saying that the remarks were not aimed at the United States. This morning, however, we heard a reaction from the United States to these comments. Our U.S. correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reported that a senior administration official called this expression by the prime minister unfavorable intentions on Israel's part.

[Levi] I cannot imagine who has such deep insight, so I do not think there was any jab at the United States. This is precisely the ground for a dialogue: to avoid a situation in which one party says one thing and the other party perceives it differently. This is why I have been taking action to obtain coordination between the Israeli Government and the U.S. Administration in good time to consolidate the principles for a political process which we will both lead together.

[Golan] Will this happen when you travel to Washington to meet with Secretary of State Baker? Will that happen soon?

[Levi] First of all, I maintain telephone contact with him. Additionally, the visit will take place very soon.

[Golan] Will you, at that meeting with Secretary Baker, offer new ideas for negotiations with Syria and perhaps also with Jordan? We have heard from Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres that King Husayn is sending signals and is prepared to renew the peace initiative according to the London accord. That document, dating back to 1987, talks about a confederative or other affiliation between the territories and Jordan.

[Levi] You see? Delving into or repeating the details or other elements Israel had turned down is ruinous to peace. What is it all about? There is in Israel an elected government which has its own policy. It has never adopted a resolution favoring a confederation or an international conference, while both of these elements are included in the London accord. The fact that a large Israeli party like the Alignment advocates this, well, this is its credo. The fact that the Likud rejects both these conditions is well known. It was on this basis that the people gave it the mandate to rule. Nonetheless, we cannot and must not sink into mutual recriminations as to who goes the extra mile toward peace. If peace has not been achieved so far, that is because of the Arab countries' rejectionism.

[Golan] What proposals will you carry with you to the United States?

[Levi] Let me refresh your memory: First of all, if we are talking about a new Middle East order, it will not prevail if the Arab countries' conceptions remain the same old hostile ones. I said as much to Mr. Baker at least three times, and I believe he accepted this position. How can one institute a new order when the world continues to accept the Arab objection to talk to Israel? I attribute

great importance, in addition to the well-known formal business of direct negotiations, to the following fact that should be borne in mind: We live in this area, after all, and it is necessary to know who we have to deal with. When an Arab leader decides to engage in negotiations with the Government of Israel, he takes a great leap over the longstanding fear that Arab countries have always harbored. By taking that step, that Arab leader will be telling his people: I have decided that this is the right way, namely peace with and recognition of Israel. The moment he does that, he will change a concept and a mentality and will overcome the fear. This will have a tremendous effect.

Remember al-Sadat. When he decided to make his move, he actually signalled to his people and the Arab world that he was marching toward peace. Any leader who takes such a step is bound to do everything to make sure he succeeds. We expect as much from the United States: direct negotiations with the Arab countries without preconditions, and with the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—now, as the PLO is being removed from the stage after having exposed its true face. There is no doubt in my mind that when that process begins, even before the negotiations; as soon as the general direction in which the United States is pushing—that is to say, direct negotiations—becomes clear, the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will likewise not wish to remain out of the picture. Let them decide on their representation, which will accept the Israeli initiative.

You know, if they come and say: We have our own leadership, the PLO has only led us to disaster—as they realize today—and if they assert that they have established locally a framework for a representation which accepts the Israeli Government's May 1989 framework but at the same time say they do not want elections, I do not believe any proposal will fall because of that minor difference.

[Zissowitz] Are you saying that you will be prepared not to go over that Palestinian representation with a fine-toothed comb?

[Levi] Look, I am not a psychoanalyst. I am not trying to proselytize or recruit anyone to the Zionist movement. If that Palestinian is not a PLO member—and in view of the PLO's diminished status in which it no longer gives instructions or presents questions to Baker or to us; it is simply not a partner—and if the representation from Judaea and Samaria accepts the Israeli initiative, I will not force it to take a lie-detector test.

[Zissowitz] Can we mention names, for instance, Faysal al-Husayni or Ziyad Abu-Zayyad?

[Levi] You see, you are already inadvertently sabotaging the whole business. The PLO is not acceptable. If anyone comes up and says that he represents the PLO, Israel will not accept him. Let time do its thing. And by time I do not mean months or years; I think that the picture will clear up within a matter of days or weeks.

[Zissowitz] I am talking about prominent Palestinian figures who are not official members of the various PLO factions.

[Levi] We should sit down with anyone who comes up and is not a PLO member, who does not claim to represent the PLO or that the PLO is in the picture, who represents the population and is acceptable to the people who currently reside in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and who accepts the Israeli initiative.

[Zissowitz] As one way to resolve the conflict, will you suggest establishing a Palestinian state in Jordan, that same postcrisis Jordan which has supported the losing side, that same Jordan whose king is reportedly losing his hold on the reigns?

[Levi] There you go again, trumpeting yet another link in the chain of mistakes we make. Forgive me, it is not a personal jibe; it is your duty to pose such questions. But you see, by talking about nonexistent situations we appear to be giving life to them and people then accuse us of wishing them to happen.

[Golan] But at least one minister has been saying that since 1976.

[Levi] Arye, I am giving you a lot of information. Does that mean that this is a wholesale market? It is necessary to outline the policy.

[Golan] So what will you discuss with that non-PLO Palestinian representation from Judaea and Samaria, the one that does not purport to speak on behalf of the PLO?

[Levi] Arye, be a bit more collegial. Your friend asked me a question. Let me first answer him, and then I will get back to you.

[Zissowitz] Thank you very much, Mr. Minister.

[Levi] I say that Jordan is our neighbor and it is a sovereign state. Certainly what happens there interests us, but we are not the driving or braking force behind events there. The processes there have their own momentum. Just as we do not want anyone to interfere in our domestic affairs, so we should likewise not start talking about scenarios that might sound like we wish that certain things happened in Jordan. It is an independent country, with which we have the longest border. Of course the king's conduct is not to our liking, but thank God this is going to end without our having entered into a big conflagration with Jordan at its center. However, if Husayn stays in power and wants to be a partner in the process, he is a neighbor, after all, and Israel will discuss peace with him.

[Zissowitz] Does Israel want him to stay on the throne?

[Levi] We do not choose our neighbors. I told Senator [as heard] Campbell yesterday that if I had to choose my neighbors, I would choose the United States. We are in an exclusive club in the Middle East, where the thinking

processes are completely different from those known in Europe, the United States, or anywhere else.

[Golan] Sometimes it looks more like an institution than a club. Still, let me ask you: You said a Palestinian representation from Judaea and Samaria whose members are not PLO members and do not claim to represent it. You said that under these terms you would agree not to hold elections in the territories.

[Levi] Wait a minute, Arye. What do you mean by saying I am prepared not to hold elections? I said that if there is a representation which accepts the Israeli initiative but does not want elections, this should be given thought; the delegation should not be rejected out of hand.

[Golan] Understood. And you say: We will be ready to talk to them. What about?

[Levi] There is an Israeli initiative. We should first discuss the principles included in the Israeli initiative. If you have forgotten about it, we cannot complain about the Arabs. The Israeli initiative has been published and it will reappear. We remain faithful to it. I opposed it zealously and fought against it as long as the PLO was at its center—and, incidentally, I said as much to Baker during our meeting. The PLO is currently on the decline. The process of its decline and removal from the stage should be encouraged, along the same lines as the international campaign against Saddam to force him out of the arena. The latter campaign is important because if he remains the Arab masses will continue to regard him as a hero who has stood up to the whole world and will turn him into an object of adoration even though he will prove to be a source of agitation until their face turns red, even if the facts slap them in the face. That is the reality; we know the local Arab population. Well, the same is true for the PLO. It has been an obstacle to peace, embracing terrorism all the time. It wanted to be viewed as a national liberation movement clutching the olive branch, but its mask dropped and its true face was exposed. It is disqualified from participation in the process. With the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, on the other hand, we are definitely interested in pushing the process forward and reaching a settlement. If anyone should challenge me by claiming that the condition for this should be a Palestinian state, I say: There will be no Palestinian state. Israel is not committing suicide. It has made no such decision.

[Zissowitz] A new and weightier element has emerged in this conflict: Saudi Arabia, which has played a central role in the Gulf crisis alongside the allies.

[Levi] Everything should be done to reach an understanding with Saudi Arabia as well. After all, it has been, I would say, the protege of the U.S. Administration for a long time. It could have faced a similar fate to Kuwait's were it not for the United States and its allies. Consequently, it always faced dangers. As for the fact that it was given limitless quantities of weapons, this is not to say that it could have withstood the danger without U.S. assistance. It is precisely on the basis of the same interests that.... [changes thought] The United States must tell the so-called moderate Arab countries, which are currently more dependent on it than ever before, as well as the countries that oppose it, that the path taken by Saddam Husayn or any other leader who follows in his footsteps will not pay off and the world will not tolerate it. All these countries, too, will need the United States. We should work on instilling this thought. The United States must state that this will be the last war and tell the Arabs: You must talk to Israel; this is the interest of the region, the United States, and the free world.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, one final question: You said earlier that you will meet Baker very soon. Can you tell us when you are scheduled to travel, or do you fear the evil eye?

[Levi] You know, you are an expert in labeling things. Give us a few days, and you will know.

[Zissowitz] In that case, let me present my last question: Political figures have given vent to their sentiments quite frankly, each expressing fear of the other. How do you feel about Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Shamir, and this open mutual expression of sentiments?

[Levi] I do not know what happened at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting. I was not there. These exchanges were undoubtedly preceded by a rather involved argument. I presume—otherwise I would not be able to comprehend the outbursts—that these are trying times, but that the people are still united and feel at one. There have been some beautiful moments here as well. To boot, without any formal agreement or announcement, the people, despite their diversity, united and our hearts beat as one with fear and hope. It is a great pity that we should stoop so low to engage in arguments and feuds that might cast a blemish on the people. The people in Zion are the jewel of the Jews wherever they are. The Israelis have their leadership, from which they expect even these days, or should I say especially these days, to exhibit tolerance and mute their tones to highlight the common denominator rather than disparities.

[Golan] And you still have not revealed your feelings about either Peres or Shamir.

[Levi] I belong to the Likud and, like you, am part of the entire nation in Israel. I hope we will all agree that there are times when even if there is good reason for bickering, we will find the way to hold our tongue and underline the common elements. This has been the mainstay of the people of Israel in their land.

[Zissowitz] Foreign Minister David Levi, thank you very much, and have a good morning. Thank you to our political correspondent Arye Golan.

[Levi] Thank you.

Comments on Bush Statement, Intervention

TA2602160091 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1510 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Dan Shilon—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening.

[Levi] Good evening.

[Shilon] Do you think that as of this evening, one can refer to Saddam Husayn as a former leader?

[Levi] Certainly his thesis has just collapsed and may be classified, perhaps, as part of a nightmare. This is clear to all. He is still trying to pull tricks to engineer his salvation, even at this point; however, it seems that he is doomed.

[Shilon] You must also be aware of the speech George Bush made approximately 20 minutes ago, in which he said: We are pursuing our military activity. Do you agree that the United States is now talking not only about the destruction of the Iraqi Army, but also about the liquidation of Saddam Husayn himself and of his regime in general?

[Levi] I think that everyone knew right from the start that if he were to emerge from this campaign in power, and if his army was left with more or less the same equipment it had, he would be able to preserve his victorious image among the Arab masses. This is how the Arab world defines such cases, and he may have been perceived as one who has stood up to the whole world and remained in power. He would have been idolized and turned into an object for emulation. Therefore, his defeat can definitely—and I stress definitely—constitute the beginning of a new way of thinking in the Middle East, that being the realization that the old concept, dream, or provocations yield only destruction and catastrophe. They yield no good. Perhaps, as we all hope, this will sober the Arab world up and direct it toward the course of peace. We, at least, hope for that.

[Shilon] Given the statements that were made today and events in the arena, can you state with certainty that Israel will not be directly involved in this war?

[Levi] One can never take what I regard as theory and declare that it is our policy. If we were the ones to determine the course of events, we could have said so; but right from the start we were not interested in this war. It was forced on the region, and the danger was directed toward us from the word go, even though we were not involved. I consequently think that the government's policy was correct. Overall, I would say that the balance to date is in our favor. It is impossible to predict the future. Let us hope we do not have to intervene, but just as we have not decided to intervene no matter what, by the same token we have not decided not to intervene no matter what. Everything depends on developments, the overriding consideration being Israel's security.

[Shilon] With your permission, let me quickly ask you about what we call the morning after the war. After the war—whenever that may be—when we are confronted with a new Middle East order, the obvious and often repeated question is: Will we come to the future negotiating table with new proposals or with the same well-known Israeli Government political initiative?

[Levi] First of all, we must project self-confidence and be sure of the justness of our way. All the wars have been forced upon us. Everyone knows that. Only one side has always been rejectionist: the Arab countries. As long as Israel refused to declare defeat, the Arab countries claimed that we had nothing new to say. Their idea of something new would be for Israel to accept the establishment of a Palestinian state, which jeopardizes Israel's existence. Well, at Camp David, Israel's attitude was positive. Israel demonstrated both sincerity and the desire for peace, which it achieved with Egypt when that country reciprocated with a similar desire for peace. Israel extends its hand in an offer of peace to all the Arab countries, jointly and severally. What they must do is renounce their rejectionism. The world should also apply some pressure so that the elementary prerequisite for peaceful talks with Israel is met. Israel comes without preconditions, and expects the other party to do the same.

As for the Palestinian issue—and I am not trying to evade your question—we came out with an initiative that was made public and upon which patches were sewn to distort it in an attempt to introduce the PLO through the back door, thereby nearly striking it off the agenda. Israel remains loyal to its initiative. Therefore, it is possible to launch peace talks with the Arab countries without preconditions, while at the same time holding talks with representatives from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who accept the Israeli initiative so that they can be partners in shaping the future.

[Shilon] Foreign Minister David Levi, thank you very much for coming to our studio.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 26 February also carries a live telephone interview with Foreign Minister Levi by Gay Zohar and Goni Mardor in which Levi says Israel must come out with "an offensive, with us being the main propeller for understandings, first of all with the United States, on a way in which we will work together to attain peace. We should not wait while others coordinate their positions and find ourselves on the defensive." Regarding the missile threat to Israel, Levi says that "as long as the war has not ended completely, the threat remains." He notes that "even in the final stages," Saddam might "take desperate action."]

Rabin Says Bush To Continue Ground Offensive

TA2602120691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Former Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has predicted that President Bush will continue with the ground attack. In an interview with David Ze'ev, Rabin said Saddam Husayn's speech this morning was a sign of desperation:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I believe he realizes that he has lost almost everything, and tries, through the good offices of the Soviet Union, to save his regime and as much as possible of his Armed Forces—half of his Armed Forces—that was deployed between Basra and Kuwait. I believe he is ready to sacrifice not only Kuwait, but half of his military force, if he will be able to remain in power, or to have the chance to remain in power. He struggles now for his life—political and, maybe, for his life in the simple sense of the word.

[Ze'ev] Will he succeed in driving a wedge between the Soviet Union and the United States? Will the whole coalition survive?

[Rabin] What he said is: I ordered my forces to withdraw from Kuwait. He did not meet the demands by President Bush to comply with the 12 resolutions of the UN Security Council. I hope that the United States will continue to demand that Saddam Husayn clearly and publicly accept and comply with the 12 resolutions, and until then, there will be no cease-fire.

[Ze'ev] But can the coalition forces, can the allied forces continue to fire at an army, at forces that are withdrawing—the Iraqi forces?

[Rabin] From what I have heard, I believe that the commanders of the allied forces don't open fire on Iraqi soldiers that run to the north unarmed. At the same time, whenever an organized unit—artillery, infantry, armor—move with all their weapons, they take them as an organized military force, and they use whatever is needed to cope with them effectively.

[Ze'ev] In terms of Israel, what could this mean if there is a cease-fire? Or, in general, what about the Scud attacks? Or what about a possible Israeli intervention, Israeli attack in Iraq?

[Rabin] Well, I believe that at present, the Iraqis are on the verge of total collapse, at least militarily, but still there will be no formal cease-fire. There is still—I hope a reduced—danger of Scuds coming from western Iraq towards Israel. I do not believe that it will be advisable—I believe it will be a mistake—to respond now. It will look like nonsense, in my humble opinion. [end recording]

U.S. Increasing 'Special Efforts' on Launchers

TA2602230391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2200 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The United States is continuing to exert special efforts to destroy the missile launchers in western Iraq. This statement was made this evening by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman Nahman Shay. He called on the public to maintain the emergency routine despite the reports coming out of Kuwait. The Americans, Shay said, have stepped up their activity.

[Begin Shay recording] To the best of our knowledge, it has even been stepped up today by great efforts to paralyze those individual launchers. It is now clear that this poses an extremely difficult military challenge: to find the hiding places of the missile launchers in that huge area. They come out at night under the cover of darkness, and the fact is that they occasionally succeed in launching missiles. However, not only has the United States not cut back, but it has even increased its activity in order to prevent them from sending missiles either by day or by night. [end recording]

King Urges Cease-Fire, Support for Soviet Efforts

NC2602202491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. His majesty the king affirmed the importance of focusing diplomatic efforts on achieving a cease-fire and supporting the Soviet efforts at the Security Council to secure the passage of a resolution in this regard.

His Majesty King Husayn also stressed the need to intensify humanitarian efforts within Iraq to prevent the outbreak of large-scale epidemics there as a result of the unavailability of medicine, food, water, and electricity.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri who had earlier held contacts with a number of Arab foreign ministers to consult with them on what can be done at this point. The foreign minister told his Arab counterparts of the need to work to achieve a cease-fire and to support the efforts currently under way at the Security Council to secure passage of a resolution on the full implementation of Resolution No. 660.

In a related development, 'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's permanent delegate to the United Nations, was asked to coordinate with Arab ambassadors and to hold contacts with the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council to support Soviet efforts to secure the passage of a cease-fire resolution.

The Security Council held a closed session at midnight last night at the urgent request of the USSR to hold consultations and deliberations on drafting a new resolution providing for the observance of a cease-fire in the Gulf war. This session continued until this morning. The Security Council resumed its meetings this evening.

Cabinet Expresses 'Anxiety' Over Fighting

NC2602214191 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers met this evening under Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The Council of Ministers discussed the serious developments in the Gulf war and the related diplomatic efforts at the UN Security Council which focus on the need to achieve an immediate cease-fire following Iraq's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No. 660.

The Council of Ministers called for stepping up international efforts in this direction and supported the steps that fraternal Iraq has announced in response to international legitimacy.

The Council of Ministers also was briefed on the Jordanian diplomatic efforts with UN Security Council members to support the efforts of the Soviet Union and the other countries which seek to attain peace in the Gulf.

The Council of Ministers expressed its anxiety and dismay over the attempts by the countries of the alliance to go beyond international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions to achieve their objectives which are now threatening Iraq and the region's security and stability, attempts which arouse the Arab citizen's anger and denunciation. The Council of Ministers reiterated the unwavering Jordanian stand on the Gulf crisis and expressed pride in the citizens' maturity and cohesion which enhance the solidity of the domestic front and national unity.

Efforts for 'Quick' Cease-Fire Cited

NC2602172891 Paris AFP in English 1550 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, Feb 26 (AFP)—Jordan is seeking a quick cease-fire after President Saddam Husayn's announcement Tuesday that Iraqi troops would complete their withdrawal from Kuwait by the end of the day, official sources said.

"Jordan has at all times worked for the end of hostilities," one official said, declining to be named.

Even ahead of Mr. Husayn's confirmation that his troops were pulling out, Jordanian Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din urged a "cease-fire that allows Iraqi troops to withdraw from Kuwait in an orderly and organized manner."

News of the pullout came as a shock to many ordinary citizens of Jordan, where sympathy for Iraq runs deep.

But MPs [members of parliament] stressed that the Iraqi resistance over more than 40 days of heavy bombardment was in itself a success.

"In every war, there are offensives and counter-offensives, advances and retreats," said Ibrahim Mas'ud, a deputy with the largest parliamentary group, the Moslem Brothers.

"The Iraqi people and the entire Arab nation can be proud of the resistance put up by Iraq during this long period," he told Agence France-Presse.

An independent Islamic fundamentalist MP, Ya'qub Qirrish, said he hoped President Husayn's decision would allow Iraq to "keep its army or the greater part of its troops."

But Fakhri Ka'war, another independent, voiced "deep surprise" over the withdrawal. "We did not expect that. However, Iraq is coming out victorious from this battle solely because it held firm for more than 40 days."

Other ordinary Jordanians were disappointed. "I cannot believe it. It can't be true," said Sulayma Khatir, a 32-year-old secretary, almost in tears.

"If Saddam Husayn wanted to withdraw from Kuwait, why didn't he do it before and avoid so many deaths, so

much destruction, so many moral and physical wounds?" a businessman asked, declining to be named.

But despite the announcement from Baghdad, dozens of volunteers turned up at recruitment centres in the Jordanian capital early Tuesday "to fight alongside their Iraqi brothers."

Muslim Deputies Urge Striking at Allied Forces

NC2502114991 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, 25 Feb (PETRA)—Deputies of the Islamic movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, have urged the Arab countries that have not participated in the aggression against Iraq to sever their diplomatic relations with the aggressive alliance countries and urged Iran to assume its position in this showdown, especially because it raised the slogan of jihad and fighting the devil.

In a (?statement) issued yesterday, they called on the Arab and Islamic countries providing the hostile alliance countries with oil or gas, particularly Iran, Algeria, and Libya, to stop this supply immediately because it directly contributes to the aggression against mujahid Iraq. They also called for facilitating the passage of volunteers to help Iraq in all fields required by the battle for the rejection of the unjust resolutions passed by the American security council [UN Security Council], and for lifting the siege on Iraq, noting that everyone who abides by these resolutions participates in killing Iraq's women, children, and eldery people.

They also urged every Arab and Muslim everywhere to strike at American and allied forces and the aggressive countries' interests, because this is a real contribution to holy jihad against these tyrant forces.

The deputies called on the Arab and (?Islamic) peoples, whose governments are participating in the hostile alliance, to declare their anger and denunciation of their rulers' crimes, to revolt against this situation, and to declare civil disobedience to compel these regimes to withdraw their forces from the peninsula [Saudi Arabia] and point their weapons to the nation's enemies, not to their Arab and Muslim brothers of mujahid Iraq's soldiers.

Official Disappointed With Islamic Reaction

LD2402110191 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, Feb. 24 IRNA—Head of the Foreign Relations Committee in the lower house of Jordan's parliament, Dr. Ahmed Annab, has expressed his disappointment over the reaction from the Islamic world towards the U.S.-led Western aggression against Iraq.

"I am disappointed with the Islamic world. This is a war against a Muslim world and they are pretending that some peace initiative would resolve the problem," he told the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) in an interview here Sunday.

He underlined that the battle is one of "Zionism together with the Persian Gulf Arab regimes and the bribed regimes of Egypt and Syria against the Islamic world."

Annab said Iran is a "very important and authoritative country. They should clearly say that the Muslims want a peaceful settlement, but if the other side refuses this, Iran should give up its neutrality and help Iraq actively."

The parliamentarian said Iran-Jordan ties were much better and were progressing on the right direction.

"We were very glad to receive a Majlis delegation from Iran recently. I told them that there should be no neutrality but jihad," Annab told Iran.

He said that he was not surprised by the start of the land war as it was already on the program of the U.S. "Iraq is defending our hopes and honour," Annab stressed.

Muslim Brotherhood 'Surprised' by Iraqi Withdrawal

LD2602150191 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, Feb. 26, IRNA—The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has expressed surprise over the decision of Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn today to withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally.

"We were surprised by the withdrawal," Ikhwan leader Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah told IRNA on phone.

He said, however, that the truth of the withdrawal news has still not been confirmed.

"When we get the confirmation we shall issue a formal statement," he said.

"I believe Saddam Husayn agreed on the withdrawal for some strong reasons. When we met him as part of an Islamic delegation in Baghdad he had told us that Iraq will withstand the aggression for 100 years," Khalifah said.

He condemned the U.S.-led war against Iraq as "a war of crusades."

"With great regret the Arab and Islamic world played the role of observers. This is a disgrace," he said.

Other leaders of Islamic groups were not immediately available for comment.

Minister Discusses Trade Plans With Tehran

LD2502214891 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, Feb. 25, IRNA—Jordan is confident that its trade and economic ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran will revive and flourish after the Persian Gulf war is over.

"Trade flow between the two countries is going to revive. Economic relations between the two countries goes back to the early 70's when there was an economic and trade agreement between the two," Jordan's minister of industry and trade, Ziyad Fariz told the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) in an interview today.

Fruits, vegetables and phosphate formed part of exports to pre-revolutionary Iran, while Jordan imported walnut, pistachio, tobacco and some oil derivatives from Iran, he said.

Amman and Tehran have already signed a deal under which Jordan would export phosphates worth dlrs 66 mn to Iran during 1991 and will import Iranian sulphur and related minerals used in the fertiliser industry.

Jordan imported dlrs 2.4 mn worth of Iranian goods, mainly nuts, water melons, raisins and carpets last year and exported products such as yeast and paint worth dlrs 1.1 mn to the Islamic republic in 1990.

Most of the business was conducted overland through Syria and Turkey.

The minister replied in the affirmative when asked if Jordan was thinking of buying oil from Iran.

"Of course, Iran is a source of oil in the light of the present situation when Saudis are not exporting to us and Iraq is facing difficulties. We are looking forward to purchase oil from Iran," he said.

Faced with a sharp decline in the flow of Iraqi oil as a result of damage to producing facilities and allied bombings on Jordanian tankers plying the Baghdad-Amman highway, Jordan has turned to Syria and Yemen to make up for the shortfall.

Jordan has contracted Syria for the supply of around 1,200 tonnes of diesel per day (8350 barrels) trucked to a refinery at Zarqa, and has asked Yemen for 100,00 tonnes (650,000 barrels) of crude at international prices, Jordanian officials say.

The trade minister said Jordan was also very interested in the concept of an Islamic Common Market.

Noting that the concept is integrated in the framework of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Fariz said, "We are very active in trying to get this concept of free trade among Islamic countries. It is not an easy thing, but from our side we have no problems. We want trade to be free."

Jordan's refusal to endorse the American-led war camp against Iraq has cost its economy billions of dollars.

Jordan's finance minister Basil Jardanah said last week that the country's losses - trade with Iraq and Kuwait, Arab financial assistance, Persian Gulf expatriate remittances and transit and port revenues on Iraq-bound cargo imported through al-'Aqabah—were around dlrs 2 billion and the figure could rise to dlrs 4 billion in 1991.

Ziyad Fariz told IRNA that 100,000 Jordanians were working in Kuwait alone. They were the highest-earning expatriates.

Ship movements to the port of al-Aqabah are improving, he said. "They are not so bad as they were in the beginning."

Pointing to the recent restoration of diplomatic relations between Iran and Jordan, the minister hoped that "trade relations will witness a parallel move also."

A Jordanian trade delegation may visit Tehran soon to boost economic ties between the two Muslim states, he said.

Meanwhile, Jordanian businessmen are preparing themselves to travel to Iran as soon as they can obtain a visa with the expected reopening of the Iranian Embassy in Amman sometime late this month or early next month.

King Affirms Support for Soviet Peace Plan

NC2202141691 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] At noon today, His Majesty King Husayn summoned the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions accredited to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and asked them to inform their fraternal leaderships and governments of Jordan's support for and blessing of the Soviet peace plan and also of its happiness with Iraq's acceptance of this plan. He hoped that the fraternal Arab leaders will make concerted efforts to stop the bloodletting and initiate reconstruction on the bases which should govern ties among brothers.

His majesty the king added: We have strong hopes that all would start a soul-searching process, now that we are on the threshold of a new phase, to heal the wounds and resume the pan-Arab march in a manner that would unify the nation's ranks, bring it benefits, and earn us the satisfaction of both God and future generations.

His majesty the king recalled that Jordan, throughout the crisis, has never doubted even for a single moment that it is possible to reach a peaceful solution to this catastrophic crisis on the basis of an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait, the resolution of problems between Iraq and Kuwait fairly and rightly, and the elimination of the causes of conflict between the two countries once and for all.

His majesty the king went on to say: This is a historic moment. The position to be formulated at this moment entails a historic responsibility. He expressed the hope and the confidence that all Arab leaders will be at the level of this responsibility so that they together can open a new bright chapter in the history of this victorious nation, God willing.

Views Gulf Events, Praises Moscow

NC2202152791 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Statement by King Husayn to reporters after bidding farewell to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, in Amman on 22 February; statement is followed by questions from unidentified reporters; both questions and answers are in English with superimposed Arabic translation—recorded]

[Text] I am optimistic and hopeful. Regardless of the facts, I believe that all of these achievements could have been accomplished on the second day of the crisis or during the first 48 hours after the crisis erupted. The recent steps announced by Moscow are extremely important to the future of this region and the world, as these steps completely achieve all of the objectives of all those concerned regarding a quick solution to the crisis, halting the war, and the launching of peace moves to secure a better future for all those in the region and for all mankind. It is time for statesmen and leaders to consider the interests of the people who are linked to this crisis as well as the interests of people all over the world. I believe that what has been achieved is great. I would like to express my great support for and appreciation of the efforts of all those who contributed to achieving this end—or perhaps the beginning—for the Soviet friends, for the Iraqi brothers, for the Islamic Republic of Iran, for all governments, and for all peoples who sought to end the darkness and help bring about a new dawn. I hope that this will be the case. It is possible to be so. It has to be so. As far as we are concerned, we have always been committed to peace, to the peoples' rights to live in peace and security.

Many wounds have been opened. Now is the time to heal these wounds. Tremendous losses in human lives have been inflicted. Now is the time to halt these losses. Now is the time to hope that a better future can be secured for this region, the world, and future generations. I would like to share with you my feelings, on behalf of the Jordanian people and Jordanian Government. I am confident that I am reflecting the sentiments of many people, millions and millions of people all over the world. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

[Reporter] What is the White House reaction to the Soviet peace plan?

[Husayn] I can say at this time that the objectives of the UN Security Council [UNSC] Resolution 660 are undoubtedly going to be implemented in full. This has been made clear through the recent developments in Moscow. I hope that they will be viewed from this perspective.

[Reporter] What is Jordan's stand? What would Jordan do if the United States rejects the Soviet initiative?

[Husayn] You know that I sincerely believe that no one can reject a proposal the world has been awaiting and looking for. I hope and pray to God that no one will reject this initiative. If the objective is to implement all the clauses in UNSC Resolution 660, all of this is going to be clearly and unequivocally implemented. Consequently, I hope that we are at the end of the era of darkness. We are waiting for a new dawn.

[Reporter] You said in a previous statement that any solution to the crisis should take into account the Palestine question. Do you feel that there are any guarantees about this provided by the Soviets?

[Husayn] The Palestine question has its own ramifications. It should be dealt with in view of them. It must be examined in the near future, because of these ramifications. I believe that the world feels that this should be the case. Let us not talk about this issue right now.

Editorial Defends Saddam, Gorbachev Initiatives

NC2202155391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Feb 91 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Peace, Not Surrender"]

[Text] In the speech he delivered yesterday to the Iraqi people, the Arab nation, the Muslims, and all peace-loving people in the world, President Saddam Husayn reaffirmed Iraq's determination to reach a peaceful solution to the Gulf dispute. He made it clear that any withdrawal from Kuwait must be part of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East on the basis of the initiative he announced on 15 February. President Saddam stressed that the conspiracy being led by the United States against Iraq was prepared in advance, not generated by the 2 August events.

President Saddam Husayn also affirmed that Iraq's desire for peace does not mean that it can be forced by anyone to surrender, and that if the aggressors reject the peaceful settlement, Iraq will continue its struggle, confident of victory, with God's help.

As usual, the U.S. Administration quickly attacked the speech, considered it disappointing, and threatened to continue the war. This suggests that Washington is determined to go ahead with its preparations to launch a ground battle, and that it does not want to retreat from the massacre it has planned—a massacre which will inflict heavy losses on its soldiers and allies.

President Saddam's speech came after America stepped up its arrogance against the Iraqi and Soviet initiatives, and after the aggressors called for adding further unjust conditions to the recent initiative. These conditions will

turn President Gorbachev's initiative into a document of surrender. Hence, the speech can be understood as a rejection of the unjust conditions to be added to that initiative, rather than a rejection of the initiative itself. The speech can also be understood as a strong warning against any military move to impose surrender on Iraq.

Needless to say, President Saddam's speech stresses his peaceful stand through which he deals with international resolutions as well as the need for everyone to deal with these resolutions through one standard without any bias or selectivity. We should remember that the conditions the aggressors want to add to the Soviet initiative have nothing to do with the UN Security Council resolutions. They are more like new resolutions. The Security Council resolutions, however, were taken without an international cover and as a result of bribe, pressure, and blackmail. This clearly means that the aggressors reject the Soviet initiative and are trying to empty it of its contents. Consequently, they will be responsible for the massacre, for which they are preparing and which they want it to take place quickly.

All peace-loving people in the world are urged to confront the aggressors' lust for blood, and that those frightened by that madness must move to oppress it and prevent the aggressors from achieving their evil goal, especially since Iraq has repeatedly affirmed its acceptance of peace. What a difference between peace and surrender!

Gunman Fires at Soviet Diplomatic Car 26 Feb

NC2702121391 Paris AFP in English 1152 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, Feb 27 (AFP)—A gunman opened fire on a Soviet diplomatic car here late Tuesday but caused no injuries, police and Soviet sources reported Wednesday.

"An unknown gunman fired three bullets from a revolver at the car of the Soviet vice-consul, which was parked in front of his house," a police source told Agence France-Presse, adding that an investigation was underway.

A Soviet embassy official confirmed the incident but refused further comment. It was the first attack here against Soviet interests. Moscow is not part of the U.S.-led international coalition battling Iraq.

Attackers have struck seven times since October at interests in Jordan of countries allied against Iraq. The attacks left no casualties.

Demonstrators Hail Saddam, Clash With Police

NC2702122391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 91 p 3

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by Sirin Halasa]

[Text] Amman—A group of demonstrators, mainly women and children briefly clashed with riot police on Tuesday, on their way from the Iraqi embassy to the American embassy.

Riot police, poised at the Second Circle prevented the marchers from proceeding to the American Embassy. The demonstrators, frustrated by the American-led campaign against their brothers in Iraq, tried to penetrate the line of riot police, but were intercepted.

One young man, who walked in the front lines of the demonstration, was hit by one of the riot policemen's clubs, fracturing his arm. No other injuries were reported.

Earlier, the group of young children and women had gathered in front of the Iraqi Embassy in a show of support and solidarity with the Iraqi people and leadership. The women shouted pro-Iraqi slogans, and severely condemned the apparent aim of the American-led forces, which is seen as the total destruction of Iraq.

Some women, who openly cried, let out some of their frustration on a number of foreign reporters who ventured out on Tuesday. They accused the reporters of being biased and having double standards in dealing with the Arabs especially during this crisis. "I watch television and I know what kind of reporting you do. It is all lies," shouted an 18 year old girl, at a group of foreign reporters who were trying to film the demonstrations. "Take those puppet leaders we have back to America, you live with them, we don't want them anymore, we are decent, respectable Arabs," another woman said.

"Long live President Saddam Husayn, long live the heroic Iraqi people," "with our souls and our blood we will fight for Saddam," shouted the crowds in apparent rage at what they perceive to be a major massacre and genocide of the Iraqi people. "They want to humiliate Saddam Husayn, but they will never do that, he will live on in our hearts forever," said another woman, who broke out in tears.

The demonstrators, carrying only Iraqi flags and pictures of President Saddam Husayn, held banners that read "Iraq we salute you," "Bush is a killer," "the masks of treachery have been lifted."

One young Iraqi man, who has ten brothers serving in the Iraqi front, stood with the Iraqi flag amid the demonstration reflecting an inner sense of pride. "We (Iraqis) stood up for more than one month in the face of more than thirty nations, and survived, this is a victory for us," he said. He also added "we support Saddam Husayn, and he will never bow. We will respect him and protect him with our lives."

The young man, who preferred anonymity, said that he was a student at the University of Jordan, and that his family was still in Iraq. What if some of your brothers die

in combat, he was asked. "Then they died an honourable death, martyrs defending the soil of their homeland," he answered proudly.

Reporter on Popular Reaction to Iraqi Overture

NC2602131991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Jordanian people received with astonishment Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's decision to withdraw his forces from Kuwait. Most of them, however, expressed the hope that Iraq will be able to preserve its military force and bring it safely out of the battle. Bitterness prevailed in the Jordanian street toward the Arab regimes that participated with the allied forces and the Western countries. The feeling that the basic goal of the Western countries is the destruction of Iraq militarily and economically after it called for the liberation of Palestine has been consolidated further. However, many people believe that the decision to withdraw from Kuwait may help push the efforts to solve the Palestinian issue now more than ever before.

In the meantime, campaigns to collect contributions and donations to the Iraqi people have continued. Offices have been opened to register volunteers in the Arab-Islamic corps. Dozens of youths have rushed to these offices since early this morning. So far, there has been no official comment on the Iraqi decision, which was ignored by the Jordanian newspapers published today, except for one English newspaper.

Paper Describes Public Anger Due to Ground War

JN2502105391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Feb 91 p 3

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by Nur Sati and Sa'idah Kilani]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian public reaction to the U.S.-led ground offensive against Iraq, which began early Sunday, was a strange mix of anger, frustration and happiness. Though news spread of aggressive attack and a quick victory for the allies, Jordanians still retained a glimmer of hope and conviction that somehow victory would be on Iraq's side.

Frustration among Jordanians is particularly evident in the Palestinian camps. An unprecedented silence and tense atmosphere hung over al-Baq'ah camp Sunday morning. The refugees refused to see any foreigners entering the camp. Young children were watching the main street leading to the entrance of the camp and scrutinising every passerby to see if he had "blond hair and blue eyes."

"You must leave," one doctor at al-Baq'ah camp told a group of foreign journalists. "It is very dangerous here and people are already angry from your governments' barbaric attacks against Iraq."

Jordanians' anger was reflected in demonstrations. Several hundred people flooded the streets of down town Amman after afternoon prayers at al-Husayni Mosque, chanting pro-Iraqi and anti-American slogans. Raising Jordanian flags along with mock 'Iraqi' rockets, demonstrators expressed their fury against "the obvious inhuman assaults" directed towards the Iraqi people.

"They have no right to come here, and now they are committing terrible acts against Iraq," one of the demonstrators said, adding: "(U.S. President) Bush's refusal to accept the Soviet peace initiative indicates his colonial objectives in the Middle East." Other demonstrators nodded in agreement and commented on the hatred the West has for Arabs.

"When I was studying at university in Britain, some British kept calling me "bloody bedouin," one of the demonstrators said.

Individuals expressed their hatred and anger some silently and others with outspokenness. Most of them put the blame, for the war on America and the blind followers.

"President Bush's only goal is to see that (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn is gone," said 'Ali who works in a petrol station. "Had he (Bush) wanted to pursue peaceful means, the U.S. would not have rejected the Soviet's peace initiative," he added.

A passerby added to 'Ali's remark saying: "This was clearly a conspiracy between the Americans and the Israelis (while the allies are being wrapped around the U.S.'s fingers) to destroy an economically and militarily strong Iraq."

Sulayman 'Akrush, a translator, called the situation "stupid." He said, "the Arabs should be blamed for the situation, particularly some of those allies of America. "He added that he felt "very frustrated sitting in Jordan and not being able to do anything about it."

'Umar, a shop-owner said, "this is not a war to liberate Kuwait. It is so sad that the Arab World is so misunderstood, ostracised and taken advantage of."

But a group of students gathering at the University of Jordan asked, "why are people so angry at the U.S. when the Arab countries themselves turn against their own Arab brothers?" One outspoken woman stood up and added "these Arab leaders that are alligning themselves with their so-called allies, are being bought."

Another angry Jordanian believed that "the United Nations and the Security Council is nothing but a Micky Mouse theatre and a puppet on a string held by world leaders having fun." Walid added that "I urge all the Third World countries to withdraw their troops from this play because at the end of the day, they are the ones who will be stepped on."

Many Jordanians were angry over the current situation and the media blackout. They voiced their sympathy with Iraq and their sadness because of their incapacity to help or "just do anything to support Iraqis in this bloody, inhuman war."

"I am really frustrated because I cannot do anything while many Iraqis are being killed by the heavy bombardment," Nabil Muhammad 'Ali said.

Jordanians refrained from giving any post-war predictions, but they pointed out that the situation in the region will be totally different to the one before the Gulf crisis.

"It is never going to be the same again," a government employee said. "Americans and their allies' barbaric actions have exposed to us and to all the world the reality of their indifference to any peace in the region. I do not think they will be more welcomed in our countries than they are now."

"I am very sad," an engineer said. "Not because I think Iraq will be defeated, but because the world has become a savage place to live in. There exist no more friendly feelings between peoples, but rather hatred, revenge and joy over the sight of people massacred in a futile war."

Poll Shows Jordanians Expect Iraqi Victory

JN2402085091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—An opinion poll conducted by the Public Opinion Centre (Arab Press) in Amman in the past week showed that the majority of Jordanians firmly believe that Iraq is capable of dealing a defeat to the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf conflict in a ground battle.

The poll, the fourth in a series of surveys to determine Jordanian people's views about various issues covered 200 people picked randomly from various sectors in Jordan. Questionnaires distributed asked the public to give views about the Gulf conflict, its reasons and expections about the consequences.

Arab Press said that 96 per cent of those asked to give their views believed that the U.S. allied coalition gives little attention to Kuwait itself and that the coalition was intent only on destroying Iraq's capabilities and preventing the emergence of Arab unity.

These, they said, are the main reasons for launching war on Iraq.

At least 95 per cent said they believed the Western media continues to mislead world public opinion by giving false promises to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict once the Gulf war ends. They said that the West, which created israel and nurtured the Jewish state, could by no means convince the Arab Nation of its intention to settle the Palestine question.

The poll also reflected the change of views, with regard to major nations of the world.

Before the Gulf conflict, 50 per cent of the public looked up to Japan with respect, declining to 20 per cent after Tokyo decided to support the coalition in the war, while the Soviet Union maintained the same respect among Jordanians as before.

With regard to France, its involvement in the war prompted 63 per cent of the Jordanian people to change their views about it and most Jordanians now regard France as an enemy of the Arab nation.

All those participating in the poll maintained their position with regard to the United States and Britain, both of which enjoy little respect, because they are regarded here as hostile nations before and after the involvement in the war against Iraq and because of their continued support for Israel, which maintains its occupation of Arab land.

The poll showed that the majority of the Jordanian people were not affected by the influence of the Western media and propaganda campaigns during the Gulf war crisis and that members of the public in Jordan proved difficult to deceive; and that the Jordanians are firmly behind the Iraqi people regardless f sacrifices.

Popular Conference—Jihad 'Peak' of Islamic Duty

NC2202165591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Feb 91 p 4

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpts] The popular conference for supporting Iraq called by the al-Tahrir Party and held in Amman the day before yesterday called for launching jihad [struggle]; opening all fronts; and moving armies to liberate Palestine, Golan, Lebanon, and the Arabian Peninsula.

The speakers at the conference were: Layth Shubaylat and Bahjat Abu-Gharbiyah of the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance; Deputy Dr. Yusuf al-Khasawinah; 'Ali 'Ayya of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front; Bakr al-Khawalidah; lawyer Sultan al-Majali; Dr. Sakhr al-Tall; Ghassan Mihyar; Fu'ad al-'Uran; Dr. Muhammad Rabi'; Usamah 'Abbas Madani; and 'Ata Abu-al-Rashtah. They all called on all Muslims to support Iraq and participate in the battle beside Iraq, stressing that jihad is an Islamic duty.

They was also the consensus that jihad is the peak of Islamic duty, that every nation abandoning jihd is humiliated by God, and that martyrdom is a right given to us by God. They also affirmed that the Palestine question and the issue of Iraq do not need words, but blood. They then urged the establishment of a fund for the battle.

Deputy Layth Shubaylat called on the Arab and Islamic nations to side with Iraq, which has survived the first and second blows. He wondered: How long will the Arab-Islamic body remain anesthetized? He added that

by striking Israel, Iraq has unmasked those who failed to take action, and affirmed that Israel is the leader of the alliance, although it is not a party in it.

Deputy Shubaylat called for striking at U.S. and Western interests. He said that several organizations are represented in our parliament, and wondered: What have these organizations done to the allied states and Israel? He added that Iraq does not want words, and said that it is a disgrace that the operation against the British Prime Ministry was carried out by the Irish Army, and not by an Arab or Muslim.

He said: I call for the expansion of the war outside Iraq to include the Jews, so as to compel the Arab rulers to enter the battle.

He added: "We want Arab and Islamic forces from Morocco, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, and others to defend Iraq and Jordan.

He also urged Libya, Algeria, and Yemen to cut off oil to the West; called on Iran not to be neutral; and urged Palestinian factions and jihad movements to strike imperialist U.S., Zionist, and Western interests. Otherwise, they will cease to exist. [passage omitted]

The final statement issued by the conference says that jihad is the peak of Islamic duty, and that the new world order sought by the United States is aimed at spreading U.S. hegemony over peoples and nations. He called for opening all fronts; moving armies to liberate Palestine, Golan, Lebanon, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Gulf; cutting off diplomatic and trade relations with all countries fighting Iraq, with the United Nations and the Security Council; rejecting UN and Security Council resolutions; liquidating the interests of the hostile states; establishing unity between the Islamic countries and Iraq; urging Iran, Libya, and Algeria to cut off oil supplies and gas to the West; and to sending troops to participate in liberating Palestinian and supporting Iraq.

Attack on Dimona Reactor Said Successful

NC2602131191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Feb 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—Palestinian sources in occupied Palestine have said that the crushing Iraqi missile attacks against the Dimona nuclear reactor area were accurate and caused severe damage to the southeastern wing of the reactor's building. No information on casualties was immediately available.

The attacks also destroyed a unit consisting of four M-60 tanks as well as two surface-to-air Hawk missile batteries near the abovementioned tank unit, 60 meters west of the site where the first missile exploded.

It has been learned that no Patriot missiles were fired to intercept the Iraqi missiles despite the presence of missile launching pads inside the perimeter of the reactor a few kilometers to the north.

Columnist on Israeli 'Lie' About Missile Attacks

NC2602153591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Feb 91 p 17

["Frankly" column by Sultan al-Hattab: "Replying to the Warning, al-Husayn Struck Rehovot"]

[Excerpt] I will not say anything about the source and how I have obtained the information. The source has revealed the lie of the Israeli authorities, who mentioned another name of the area in which the missile had landed in order to conceal the site and to prevent the leakage of information. The military spokesman said that the missile landed in the "E" area, while the al-Husayn missile launched on the evening of 23 February, five minutes before the deadline for the American warning, landed in the Tel Aviv area, which is part of the "A" area, as available information reveals.

In fact, the Iraqi communique said: "The al-Husayn missiles hit the Tel Aviv area." This is true because the missile landed exactly in the area southeast of Tel Aviv; namely, in the military industry complexes in Rehovot, which also include the Weizman Scientific Institute, which has the largest physics laboratory in Israel. The Weizman Institute was founded by Weizman himself. The Weizman Institute also includes the principal laboratory for the manufacture of heavy water used in nuclear industries. It also includes a section for arms development affiliated to the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

The source also said that the al-Husayn missile hit the Mavlin [name as published] industrial complex, which manufactures Galil and 'Uzi machine guns, some antiaircraft guns, 105-mm tank guns, and auxiliary systems for some air-to-air missiles. The missile also hit the Mavlat [name as published] company, which manufactures ammunitions. This is why the area between the Weizman Scientific Institute and the entrance to Rehovot toward Tel Aviv was covered with black heavy smoke and why a huge fire broke out. The fire was admitted by the military spokesman and was screened by Israeli television as a news item, saying: "Huge fires broke out at the site of explosion, and fire brigades rushed to the scene to extinguish the fire."

The source also said that due to the immensity of the fire and out of fear that it might spread to the chemical stores of the Mafkam [name as published] company, the Israeli authorities used the central fire brigades stationed in the Palmahim settlement, 6 km west of Rehovot.

The Israeli authorities were panicked and were forced to evacuate most of the Rehovot residents even after the explosion for fear that some of the underground chemical stores had been hit. The source affirmed that the central laboratory in Rehovot was also hit. This laboratory is very important to the Israeli Ministry of Defense, which is using it to develop the Army's combat means and to determine the specifications of explosives and military equipment. [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges 'Positive Response' to Withdrawal

JN2602092491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Step Closer to Peace"]

[Text] The Iraqi announcement that it was withdrawing its forces from Kuwait early Tuesday in compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 660 is consistent with Baghdad's position which was announced on Feb. 15 and the Soviet peace initiative that followed.

It is indeed painful to adopt and implement such a move in the absence of any guarantees against continued aggression and continued efforts to decimate the country and its leadership. But then there are painful decisions that heads of state and statesmen have to take and carry out to save lives and avert further destruction of the country.

For all one could see and hear, the Iraqi withdrawal could have started much earlier than it was actually announced, and this might perhaps also explain the "surprisingly light" resistance that American military spokesman said the allied forces encounterd in their ground assault and push into Kuwait. And this would also indicate a desire on the part of the Iraqi leadership to save as many lives as possible as indeed everybody is dutybound to do.

One is reminded of the Iranian acceptance of a ceasefire with Iraq after eight years of war. "A bitter cup of poison"—that was how the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni described the decision in the summer of 1988. Well, one also has to remember that Iraq had no more military or strategic ambitions other than to bring about a ceasefire and put an end to the war then.

Not another drop of blood need be shed in the Gulf today if the objective of the allies is to free Kuwait since the party occupying the emirate is leaving. We hope that tere would be a positive response to the Iraqi move from the U.S. and its allies with a different outlook on all that is happening in the Gulf today. This is a moment to look at armies as not just fighting machines of any country or regimes but rather as human beings whose blood need not be spilled to serve a goal like the declared objective of the U.S. alliance i.e. the liberation of Kuwait. This is what Iraq appeared to be saying in its announcement early today. It is withdrawing from Kuwait anyway; why should any drop of blood be wasted in the meantime?

This is a time to work for peace, not continue the devastating and senseless war. Every effort should be exerted to take advantage of the Iraqi decision to agree on a ceasefire, an end to hostilities and to give peace the chance to prevail once and for all.

Columnist Urges USSR To Supply Iraq Weapons

NC2302150291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Feb 91 p 20

["The Last Station" column by Mu'nis al-Razzaz: "America's Israeli Policy"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration's conditions as opposed to Gorbachev's initiative are the conditions of a victor who can dictate the terms of surrender to his defeated enemy. America knows that Iraq has not been defeated, but still adopts the position announced by Shamir, who said that the Iraqi Army should be destroyed, and the Iraqi regime should be toppled.

He also explained that the only issue is not the liberation of Kuwait but includes these additional two goals. Therefore, how can we explain America's demand of an Iraqi withdrawal within four days? This means a withdrawal of the Iraqi infantry without their heavy weapons, that is, without their tanks and artillery and also without a cease-fire.

No party can demand such a thing without defeating the other party. The Iraqi party has not been defeated, and it is very difficult to defeat it.

Iraq has proved that imperialism is a paper tiger. After five weeks of brutal shelling of Iraqi cities and villages, the Americans did not dare to wage a ground battle.

The alliance's rejection of Gorbachev's initiative means that the allies want to achieve Israel's goal: To topple the regime and destroy the Iraqi Army.

Moscow is required to take a tough position and announce to the world that it is ready to establish an airlift to supply Iraq with all kinds of weapons and military, medical, and food needs.

This airlift can operate between Moscow and Tehran if it cannot operate between Moscow and Baghdad. Iranian officials said that Gorbachev's initiative is excellent and that the allies no longer have an excuse to continue the military attacks on Iraq. The Iranians know that they are the second target after Iraq on the allies' agenda.

Crystallizing a unified Iraqi-Soviet-Iranian position will foil the enemies' suspected plans. Therefore, we propose a tripartite conference of representatives from Moscow, Tehran, and Baghdad to convey the Arab, Islamic, and progressive message to the White House.

USSR Urged To Issue U.S. 'Counter-Warning'

NC2402232391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Feb 91 p 18

["The Last Station" column by Mu'nis al-Razzaz: "Do Not Desert Iraq"]

[Text] We urge the Soviet Union to issue a counter-warning to the American warning to Iraq. Iraq has made the maximum concession possible to the Kremlin, and

Moscow is not a neutral party. Several days ago, Soviet officials stated that U.S. intelligence is trying to destroy the Soviet economy.

After discovering that most European countries and Japan have become American colonies, we warn the Soviet Union, Iran, the PRC, and India that they may also become Washington's satellites if the allies succeed in defeating Iraq, may God forbid.

Iraq is confronting the imperialist-capitalist world on behalf of the Arabs, the Muslims, and the free people of the world. So it cannot be deserted to face the arch satan alone.

Yes, we urge Moscow to issue a counter-warning, and we call on the Islamic and nonaligned countries to back it.

Gorbachev's fate depends on Iraq's fate. If the Soviet leader takes a neutral position, he will be the first victim of the Gulf war, because imperialism is not interested in neutrals. The side that considers itself to be neutral is an enemy in the eyes of the imperialists.

Japan and the European countries have bowed entirely to U.S. hegemony. Therefore, the Soviet Union, Iran, and the PRC are required to fully support Iraq to resist attempts to entrench that hegemony over our globe.

This war is not a war between Washington and Baghdad. It is a war between the imperialists, who are attempting to spread hegemony over this planet, and those who are resisting that attempt.

Iraq should not remain alone in this confrontation. The whole world is targeted by the new order propagated by the White House administration.

USSR Urged To Tell West 'Enough Is Enough'

NC2702131191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Figuring Out the Obvious"]

[Text] The Soviet Communist Party hit it on the nail Monday when its official newspaper PRAVDA described the U.S.-led allied ground assault on Iraq as a drive for world hegemony. The question that remains is why it took Moscow so long to figure out the obvious. Certainly the Soviet leaders acknowledge that it was also instrumental in granting Washington and its allies a green light in the first place to move military into the Gulf by supporting the various U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted against Iraq, especially Resolution 678. That resolution was exploited and prostituted to the limit by the West in order to facilitate the achievement of the U.S. ambition to become the sole leader of the world.

For the Soviet leadership to come out now and cry wolf is maybe too late and too little. The war in the Gulf is entering its final state and there is very little that the Soviet Union can do now to salvage the situation that brought it also harm, disgrace and humiliation. Where one would openly disagree with PRAVDA's Monday report that a prolonged ground war in the Gulf could undermine President Mikhail Gorbachev's standing at home and abroad is that the defiant and arrogant rejection of Gorbachev's peace proposals to end the Gulf war by President George Bush and his allies has already dealt the Soviet leader a devastating blow. Surely the damage to the Soviet Union and its leadership has already occurred with or without a long war. The only thing left for the Soviet Union to do in order to redeem its dwindling prestige in the eyes of the nations that still pin some hope on it is to prevent the kind of surrender and humiliation that Washington and its partners seem to be insisting on inflicting on Iraq and its leadership.

All that is asked of Moscow is to tell the West that enough is enough and that it is prepared to put all its weight behind the efforts to spare Iraq from the designs and conspiracies of Washington, London and Paris. There are many ways available to the Soviets to do just that, the least of which is to have the Security Council abort the continuing conspiracies of the West. As PRAVDA admitted Monday, the West seeks not only political and military hegemony in the world, especially in the Gulf region, but also economic clout in order to control even the world economy and make it subservient to its needs and priorities. This is finding expression in the contracts being given to Western companies to reconstruct Kuwait and Saudi Arabia even before the war has ended.

Meanwhile the Arab World is called upon to draw the necessary conclusions from the Gulf crisis and the war what ensured from it. There are many lessons to be learned from the Gulf situation, above all how to deal with its aftermath. It is premature to prescribe effective antidotes for the catastrophe that befell the Arabs at large and some painstaking analysis and soul searching need to be done first before final pronouncement can be made on it.

What saddens us most in the unravelling situation in the Gulf war is the reality that it is Arab money and resources and people that were and are being used to wreak havoc on another Arab country, Iraq. It is doubtful that the Arab allies in the U.S.-led coalition would ever admit this reality, or accept responsibility in destroying what represented Arab aspirations to life in freedom and dignity, away from foreign tutelage and domination.

Bomb Explodes at Tripoli French Cultural Center

NC2702102191 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] A small bomb went off in front of the French Cultural Center in the northern city of Tripoli this morning. A military spokesman noted that damage was limited to only material damage.

An explosives expert discovered a second bomb placed near the first, which did not explode due to a fault in its triggering device.

Bomb Causes Damage Near Soviet Cultural Center

NC2702104791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] This morning an explosive device went off in front of the Soviet Cultural Center in West Beirut, causing material damage.

Hizballah Condemns Continued U.S. 'Aggression'

NC2702083091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Regarding the events in the Gulf region, Hizballah has issued a statement, saying: O Muslims and oppressed people, sons of Hizballah's nation, following the U.S. Administration's refusal to respond to the peace initiatives, which included the cancellation of the excuse of Iraqi occupation of Kuwait; following Iraq's clear and practical acceptance of Resolution 660 and the unconditional withdrawal; and with the insistence on war of the Western forces of arrogance with the aim of going beyond the objective of liberating Kuwait to complete the destruction of the Iraqi people's resources and infrastructure and threaten the unity of Iraq, it has become clear that the United States and its allies are today fighting the fiercest war to uproot a whole nation, impose foreign hegemony on it, and control its wealth, regimes, and the will of its peoples.

The statement holds the Iraqi regime responsible for the deterioration and tension which have occurred. The statement says: After the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the Western and U.S. escalatory aggression in the region is no longer justified. The security of the region and the establishment of a new security system in it is a matter of concern only to the regional states, and not the Western alliance.

The statement stresses that after the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the world community must swiftly make decisions and exercise pressure on the usurping Zionist entity to leave all the occupied territories within a specific and short period of time, as was the case with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The Arab regimes must accept no less than a [word indistinct] and unconditional Zionist withdrawal, without any negotiations with the enemy usurping Jerusalem and Palestine.

The Hizballah statement says the peoples of our Islamic nation are monitoring the world's, and particularly the West's, dealing with the Zionist entity, which occupies Islamic territories, and warns against any attempt to play down the importance of this subject. The people also believe that the forces of the foreign Western alliance must quickly and unconditionally leave the Gulf because their presence under any excuse or form is rejected.

The statement adds that the peoples of our Islamic nation hold the United States and the forces of the Western arrogant alliance responsible for what happened in the Gulf region, starting with the aggressive war in which Saddam was used as an instrument of Western arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and warns against the suspect U.S. schemes aiming at interfering in the destiny of those peoples, imposing agent regimes in the region, and setting up a new regional system that would serve the interest of the Western arrogance and its hostile schemes.

The Hizballah statement says: After the Muslim peoples have become certain about the corruption of the reactionary rulers and the decaying regimes in the Gulf, and after they have taken advantage of the recent crisis to shape up their revolutionary political awareness and realized the size of the responsibility they shoulder to liberate the Islamic countries from the forces of arrogance, those peoples need now more than ever to unite, achieve cohesion, and rally behind the revolutionary Islamic option and its wise leadership, which is entrusted with the interest of the people and countries.

in Palestinian Camp

NC2702113591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Some 10,000 Palestinians demonstrated in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp near Sidon today in support of Iraq in its war against the allied forces. The demonstrators called for striking at U.S. interests everywhere.

Libya Pledges Aid for Army Battalion

NC2602190891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Speaking after a meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Libyan Ambassador Salih al-Duruqi affirmed that Libya has always been concerned about the progress of bilateral relations with Lebanon in various fields. Al-Duruqi handed Buwayz a message from Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation.

It has been learned that the message contains a pledge of Libyan aid to Lebanon. One of the forms this aid will take is equipment for a Lebanese Army battalion. A Lebanese ship will soon sail for Libya to receive the aid.

President Al-Hirawi Leaves For Damascus 27 Feb

NC2702104391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi left for Damascus today. He will hold talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the current developments in Lebanon and the region.

LF-U.S. Meeting in 'Neighboring Country' Denied

NC2302201791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] A high-level Lebanese Forces source has stated the following: A local newspaper said today that the Lebanese Forces [LF] leader met with a high-ranking U.S. official in a neighboring country. The source said the U.S. communicated a piece of advice about an internal Lebanese affair. Some other news media attempt to establish a link between the Gulf events and its developments and the domestic political contacts and the stands of the ministers boycotting the government. For clarification, the following has been received:

1. No meetings took place outside Lebanon between the LF leader and any high-ranking U.S. official.

2. There is absolutely no relationship between the stands of the ministers boycotting the government and the developments in the Gulf war. This government's stand was taken before the Gulf war and is based on the fact that this government is not nationally balanced. Therefore, the makeup of this government contradicts the core of the al-Ta'if agreement. What the ministers boycotting the government demand is a return to the spirit of the al-Ta'if agreement, given that it is a balanced national agreement.

3. Either motivated by bad intentions or poor judgment, some try to claim that any contact between the boycotting ministers and the legitimate authority or others will necessarily lead to a change in the stands of the boycotting ministers. The truth is that the aim of all contacts is to adhere to the fact that dialogue is the best way to resolve all pending problems in Lebanon, including the government problem.

Amal Group Ambushes Lahd Patrol, Clashes Ensue

NC2602071191 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The Amal movement has declared that one of its groups has ambushed a patrol of the Lahd agents near the town of Rshaf. The group clashed with the patrol and with the positions of the Israeli enemy, which replied by shelling three villages. Meanwhile, the occupation and agent forces conducted a search operation in the northern sector.

Al-Shar' Says Withdrawal Attempt To Save Saddam

NC2602175091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1618 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The Cabinet held a meeting at 1100 today under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The meeting began with a review of the activities of the services and economics committees which include a number of projects, contracts, and measures.

The Cabinet then discussed the latest political developments in the Gulf crisis, and reviewed these developments from various aspects. During this review, the Cabinet affirmed that since the start of the crisis, Syria has exerted every possible effort to stave off further destruction, suffering, and loss of innocent life among the two peoples, Iraqi and Kuwaiti. The Cabinet also affirmed that Syria, in light of its clear vision regarding the outcome of the Iraqi invasion, has always affirmed that no Arab or international efforts could extricate Iraq from the dilemma in which its leadership had placed it if Arab and international resolutions were not implemented.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis. He affirmed that since the beginning of the crisis, the Iraqi regime had responded to diplomatic efforts and initiatives, not to save the Iraqi people and Iraq's economic and military potentials, but instead to safeguard the regime and save face.

Al-Shar' added that the point the Iraqi regime reached today—accepting full withdrawal from Kuwait—also comes as part of the framework to save the head of the regime after the infrastructure of both Kuwait and Iraq has been destroyed.

Al-Shar' expressed the pain and bitterness all Arabs are feeling regarding the state of the two fraternal peoples in Iraq and Kuwait, as well as the state of the region as a whole. He affirmed that Syria under all circumstances is concerned about preserving the unity of Iraq and the integrity of its territory, as well as safeguarding the future of the fraternal Iraqi people, ending their sufferings, and respecting their free political choices.

Mr. Ahmad Dhiyab, minister of local government, then clarified the results of local government elections to the councils of the governorates, cities, towns, and administrative units, which took place in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy—with full participation and interest on the part of the voters in all governorates. The Cabinet affirmed the importance of local government elections, and of the great developments the system of local councils in Syria is realizing on the level of bolstering and deepening the concepts and requirements of the popular democratic system in Syria, whose broad bases have been laid by President Hafiz al-Asad since the Corrective Movement of 1970.

After that, the Cabinet discussed a number of topics presented during the meeting, and adopted the necessary decisions.

AL-BA'TH on Iraqi Regime's 'Fatal Mistakes'

NC2702113391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Feb 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Fatal Mistakes and the Miserable Harvest," AL-BA'TH says: It seems that the Gulf war has entered its final stage regarding the liberation of Kuwait and the expulsion of the Iraqi forces from it. In a new sudden development, although not unexpected, the head of the Iraqi regime has announced the withdrawal from Kuwait and the abandonment of the annexation decision which he made illegally following his invasion of that fraternal country.

The paper adds: Thus, he has returned to the position of admitting his mistake, which is the same position he found himself in when he admitted the mistake of igniting his unjust war against the Iranian revolution, the difference being that that war lasted for eight years, while the Gulf crisis, which was created by the invasion, has lasted approximately seven months.

The paper wonders: What has the Iraqi regime gained from this war? What has it offered to Iraq, Palestine, and the Arab nation? Destruction, bloodshed, and the squandering of the resources of Iraq and Kuwait are the most important gains this adventurous regime has harvested, in addition to the political and material losses that were inflicted on the Palestine question, and the profits gained by the Zionist enemy, which it never expected.

The paper stresses that these results have been the subject of Syria's interest, which has realized the danger from the beginning, thus, it warned against it and stressed the need to avoid it out of its concern for the nation's resources and the Iraqi people and army.

Concluding, the paper says: The Iraqi regime, which has lent a deaf ear to all peace calls and irrationally adhered to its course, has reached a point where it is trying to save itself after it inflicted on the people and army a big catastrophe that could have been easily and bravely averted. However, will the Iraqi Army and people forgive their regime's fatal mistake? This will become clear in the near future.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Opens Meli Shura Session

LD2502201891 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Address by President Najibullah at opening of Meli Shura in Kabul on 25 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Esteemed members of the Republic of Afghanistan Meli Shura.

Today, in line with Article 76 of the Constitution of Afghanistan, I open the Republic of Afghanistan Meli Shura's sixth session.

Dear representatives and senators, the sixth session of the Republic of Afghanistan's Meli Shura commences its work at a time when the state of the Republic of Afghanistan some time ago marked the second anniversary of the independent defense of the Republic of Afghanistan. The supporters of the extremists [words indistinct] but in practice, as it was wished, not only carried out provocations and interventions from abroad, but they, until today, encourage the extremist armed groups in their war against the people in some border provinces. Members of the hero armed forces of Afghanistan, patriotic forces, and brave and valiant compatriots of ours, despite much suffering and misery, were able to abort those conspiracies and endeavors of the dangerous enemies of Afghanistan, which were aimed at the disintegration and the extinction of our country, and [words indistinct]. As a result, in many parts of the country the situation relatively returned to normalcy, and in some provinces, economic life has been resumed, and armed and unarmed opposition have entered the theater of defending the country and supporting the national reconciliation policy. A large number of the oppostion's armed groups commanders prefer to engage in commercial and economic activity.

On the whole, we can say, despite foreign intervention, war fever is dropping. However, there are still some extremist groups [word indistinct] embarking on the dirtiest form of fighting, i.e., firing rockets from long distances and killing our innocent compatriots. Rocket attacks, the killing of Afghans and [word indistinct], economic sabotage, the looting of public properties, causing explosions, and, in brief, the devastation and ruination of our country, and the mass killing of our Muslim compatriots is the long list which can be considered the deeds and crimes of the extremists over the past 2 years. Apart from this, the extremists have not taken any effective step in the interest of peace and for the cessation of war. While the the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has resolutely mounted defense against the surreptitious attacks of the extremists, it has also presented comprehensive proposals for the solution of the country's problems.

During the years of national reconciliation policy, and especially over the past two years of independent defense, the public opinion of our compatriots and of the people of the world have passed their judgement on the two policies as regards the Afghan problem, and have noted that the reconciliation policy and proposals, and the peaceful measures of the Republic of Afghanistan are logical and are in complete conformity with realities. While the reckoning and efforts of the extremists and their supporters are still based on a military solution, and on claims that the state sovereignty of Afghanistan may well fall due to its weakness, all those reckonings were proved totally wrong and unfounded in practice. Adventurist acts, a lack of determination and political and practical programs, and the extremists' bloody internecine clashes clearly prove that they are linked with Pakistan's intellegence agency and with international narcotics networks.

In contrast to the extremists, the moderate and healthy forces are in the ranks of the opposition, and the refugees have always distanced themselves from the extremist forces and supported the peaceful and political solution of problems, and supported the principle of talks and negotiations.

Respected delegates of the parliament: We have always emphasized that the parliament of the Republic of Afghanistan and its members have (?played) a considerable role in the social, political, economic, national, and international life. During the period of routine recess of the Meli Shura, 177 members of parliament visited their provinces and undertook useful work with their constituents. [passage omitted]

It should be stated that effective and useful work by the parliament of the Republic of Afghanistan has been great and praiseworthy. Under the present conditions, our people expect such work from the country's parliament and its members. These expectations are indicative of the confidence that the people of Afghanistan attach to their parliament and its delegates. [passage omitted]

Esteemed members of the Meli Shura, the State of the Republic of Afghanistan intends to assess its foreign relations from a (?national) point of view by taking into account the development of the situation and reviewing its policy. Our proposals in this connection—that is, on friendly relations with neighboring countries, especially Pakistan, were explained in the ceremony marking the fourth anniversary of the declaration of the national reconciliation policy.

We proposed that we want to become economic partners instead of military rivals with our neighboring countries, especially with Pakistan. We presented this proposal based on the interest of the people of both our countries, and on the basis of mutual interest. Also, the time has come, within the framework of the national reconciliation policy, when we should outline, alongside the discussion of economic measures, the international and regional aspects of national reconciliation. Therefore, in

my meeting with the residents of Qandahar I expressed the readiness of the Republic of Afghanistan to commence official talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Every day in the world, fast transformations take place toward resolving conflicts. Therefore, why should Afghanistan, who has proposed the national reconciliation policy, be an exception? This policy has opened a new stage in the bilateral and multilateral relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and its neighbors. That is why in my speech to the people of Qandahar, I said that we are ready to normalize our relations with Pakistan. These relations can be [word indistinct] based on such bilateral agreements whereby on one hand we alter relations from being military rivals to being mutual beneficial and economic partners, while on the other, both country should avoid measures which might directly or indirectly sabotage the state regimes of both countries.

The international and regional strategy which is developing, and also the national interest of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other neighbors, require that good-neighborly relations and mutual economic cooperation should develop and expand in the interest of the people of the neighboring countries. We do not want to achieve the friendship of one neighboring country at the cost of enmity with another. Our aim is to live in peace and prosperity with all our neighbors, and to have such relations as demanded by the national interest of our people.

Esteemed friends, the state uses all its possibilities, based on its repeated proposals, toward the political and peaceful solution of the issues of Afghanistan in order to prepare conditions for general nationwide elections resulting from talks and negotiation, and based on the principle of democracy. Also, in the economic sphere, the state tries to effectively use internal sources and existing capacities to remove shortages of primary goods needed by the people, and to establish a relative stability in prices.

Dear members of the Meli Shura, allow me to open the sixth session of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan in the name of God, and in the hope of peace in our common homeland, based on Article 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan. I wish you success in implementation of the humanitarian and peaceful goals of the parliament of the Republic of Afghanistan. Success comes from God. [applause]

Bangladesh

Polls Open on Nationwide Parliamentary Elections

BK2702034491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0317 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 27 (AFP)—Balloting began countrywide Wednesday to elect Bangladesh's fifth parliament in the first polls held here under a neutral interim government, officials and reports said.

Voting began at 8:00 A.M. (0200 GMT) at some 24,000 polling stations where some 62 million voters were scheduled to exercise their franchise in the country's first free elections to fill the 300-seat legislature.

Elections to two constituencies have been countermanded following the deaths of two candidates.

There were no reports of poll-related violence in Bangladesh where an estimated 400,000 police and paramilitary troopers backed by army units guarded polling stations.

Among the first notables to vote was Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the influential Awami League Party which has fielded 262 candidates.

Awami League Chief Votes, Comments

BK2702035091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0329 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 27 (AFP)—Sheikh Hasina Wajed, chief of the Awami League, cast her vote soon after polling started in Bangladesh Wednesday, saying she wanted democracy to have a firm footing.

"I am confident my party will get two-thirds majority if elections are held freely and form a parliamentry government which will ensure full democracy," she told reporters after casting her vote in Dhanmandi government girls school shortly after polling began at 8:00 A.M. (0200 GMT).

Asked how she was feeling, Sheikh Hasina said that she was naturally feeling "great" because she could vote freely, a right denied her since 1981 when her arch-rival the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was in power.

She alleged the BNP had broken the election code of conduct in many cases and had let loose a reign of terror under the leadership of Tariq Rahman, the elder son of BNP Chairman Begum Khaleda Zia, in constituencies where they felt vulnerable.

In reply to a question, she said government steps to ensure free and peaceful polling was satisfactory, but complained that in several places local administration was not working the way it should.

Sheikh Hasina appealed to the public to be alert against violence and vote peacefully.

The Awami League which led Bangladesh to its independence in 1971 from Pakistan has fielded 262 candidates.

Voting began at some 24,000 polling stations where some 62 million voters were scheduled to exercise their franchise in the country's first free elections under a neutral interim government to fill the 300-seat legislature.

There were no reports of poll-related violence as an estimated 400,000 police and paramilitary troopers backed by army units guarded polling stations.

BNP Chief Alleges Voting Irregularities

BK2702071991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0701 GMT 27 Feb 91

[TExt] Dhaka, Feb 27 (AFP)—Begum Khaleda Zia, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Wednesday said that she was "very happy" to cast her vote after nine years with the end of dictatorial rule in Bangladesh.

"I am very happy as I have been waiting for this day for the past nine years ... I will get a majority in the polling," she told reporters after casting her vote at Adamjee Cantonment College centre at 11:30 a.m. (0530 GMT).

Her main rival, Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League, had cast her vote shortly after polling opened at 8:00 a.m. (0200 GMT).

Begum Zia alleged that she had received complaints from her workers at the centre of false voting, and also that names of many voters were not on the electoral roll.

"I am saddened that some could not vote, which is a democratic right," she said.

Asked what steps she would take in the face of such allegations, Begum Zia said, "that I will tell you later."

The BNP, which boycotted all elections during the eight-year-rule of ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has fielded 298 candidates in the race for the 300-seat Jatiya Sangsad, or National Parliament.

The Awami League, which led Bangladesh to independence in 1971 from Pakistan, has fielded 262 candidates.

AFP Describes Preelection Scene

BK2602083991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 26 Feb 91

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 26 (AFP)—With campaigning over, Bangladesh awaits general elections which are widely expected to return one of two former ruling parties to power—with a matriarch at the helm, observers said here Tuesday.

"Whatever happens, one of the two women rivals will be the next prime minister of Bangladesh," speculated the English-language BANGLADESH TIMES, noting also that she would become the second woman after Pakistan's former Premier Benazir Bhutto to lead a Muslim country.

Wednesday's elections are "no more a test of popularity among the host of parties, but a straight one-to-one battle between Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Begum Khaleda Zia," said a foreign election observer, part of a team of 60.

Ms. Hasina's Awami League and Begum Zia's Bangladesh National Party (BNP), both former ruling parties, have both found massive support in their month-long campaigns among the 62 million voters. More than 2,770 candidates, most belonging to one of 70 parties, seek the people's mandate in the polls being held for the first time under an administration which does not have a political stake in the event.

The polls will return 298 MPs to the Jatiya Sangsad or parliament through Bangladesh's fifth general election which a caretaker administration says will be done through a "fearless exercise of franchise."

Polling has been countermanded in two constituencies following the death of two candidates for the 300-seat parliament. Thirty women representatives are to be named by the elected MPs after the new parliament convenes next month.

Among the parties in the fray is the right-wing Islamic Jamaat-i-Islami Party, which has put up 221 candidates in constituencies also being contested by the BNP or the league and its eight-party alliance of left-wing parties.

The BNP and the Awami League are in straight contests in 200 parliamentary constituencies, while the Jatiya Party of ex-President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has fielded 271 candidates, many contesting from prison, including Mr. Ershad.

Ms. Hasina and Begum Zia both say they are confident of securing a two-thirds majority by winning 201 seats, but party sources have said that either party would be happy with a simple majority of 151.

Traditionally, the 30 seats of the indirectly elected women MPs join the majority party. The winner would also reap some defections from the opposition, analysts say, noting also that 10-12 per cent of voters remain undecided.

"But to think both the ladies will get same numbers of votes is highly unlikely," said the poll observer, who is from India.

The Awami League, which led Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence from [words indistinct] under Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was killed and his one-party rule overthrown in an August 1975 military coup.

Bangladesh revived its multi-party system in 1976 under the stewardship of General Ziaur Rahman, Begum Khaleda's husband, who seized power in a counter-coup in November 1975.

Gen. Zia, who formed the BNP in 1978, died in a May 1981 abortive coup, but his party remained in power for the next 10 months until Mr. Ershad took over through a bloodless coup in March 1982.

Meanwhile, the league reemerged and, despite Ms. Hasina's 1981 return from self-imposed exile, remained sidelined, but eager to stage a comeback.

Begum Zia and Ms. Hasina found in Mr. Ershad a common foe and spearheaded a pro-democracy campaign until his December 6 overthrow which led to the announcement of the fifth parliamentary polls by the interim government.

"People of Bangladesh had to wade through blood to get an election which is held for the first time under a neutral government," the NEW NATION daily said Monday, referring to elections in 1986 and 1988 marred by opposition boycotts.

"Elections held in this country by the past successive regimes were reduced to mockery because of the blatant interference by parties in power," it added.

Both Ms. Hasina and Begum Zia have promised to restore democracy and vowed to end the country's past of bloody coups, rampant corruption and alleged state-sponsored human rights violations.

"These are the main issues and the people will also keep in mind the sacrifices of these two ladies and their parties," the poll observer said.

Special Act Amended To Provide Freedom of Press

BK2602160091 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The Special Powers Act of 1974 has been amended providing for freedom of the press. An official announcement said today sections 16, 17, and 18 of the act have been deleted under the amendment.

The Printing Presses and Publications Declaration and Registration Act 1973 has been amended providing for creation of a press appellate board to hear appeals on orders of the district magistrates. The government will not hear any such appeals now.

Special Tribunal To Resume Ershad's Trial

BK2602164291 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The stay order of trial of ex-president Ershad was vacated and his writ petition dismissed by the full court of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court today. The earlier order of the Appellate Division was passed (?in chamber), staying the trial of the ex-president for possession of unlicensed firearms [words indistinct].

The Appellate Division has vacated the stay order after hearing both the parties. The trial of the ex-president will now resume in the special tribunal.

Saudi Arabia Appreciates Stand on Gulf Crisis

BK2602125891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The visiting Saudi state minister for cabinet affairs, Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, called on the acting president, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, in Dhaka on Tuesday. During the meeting, the minister handed over a letter of Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to the acting president. An official said the Saudi king in his letter mentioned his country's efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. King Fahd appreciated Bangladesh's principled position on the Gulf crisis and described it as constructive. He also expressed hope that Bangladesh would continue to maintain its constructive position for the solution of the problem and for stability in the region.

The acting president reiterated Bangladesh's stand on the Gulf issue.

India

Shekhar Discusses Refueling of U.S. Planes

BK2702084791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] The prime minister disclosed in the Raja Sabha [Upper House] today that the refueling of U.S. aircrafts began in October last year. Replying to questions on the issue, he said the previous government had provided a free air corridor against international norms. Answering supplementaries, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the government is responsible for allowing this facility and hue as the prime minister takes the responsibility for refueling after he assumes the office. He said the decision not to continue this facility was taken after consultations with various political leaders. He reiterated that no U.S. war planes were allowed refueling and said only transport aircrafts carrying medicines and injured persons were allowed this facility. When some opposition members demanded that the records pertaining to this issue should be placed before the house, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said there was no agreement signed but refueling was allowed according to traditions. However, there are records of permissions for blanket air corridor being given to the United States. He categorically denied that his government has deviated from the accepted policy of nonalignments.

Says Efforts To End War Will Continue

BK2702035491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] The prime minister has said that India will continue to pursue efforts both in the Nonaligned forum and in the United Nations to end the Gulf conflict. In reply to a message from the Libyan leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, Mr. Chandra said New Delhi will strive hard to facilitate a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Parties Urge Bush To Stop Gulf Hostilities

BK2602125291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The National Front and left parties have urged the United States to immediately stop all hostilities and said that continuation of war after the Iraqi announcement of

start of withdrawal from Kuwait would be in gross violation of the Security Council resolution. In a letter addressed to President Bush and handed over at the American Embassy in New Delhi this afternoon, about 90 MP's [members of parliament] belonging to these parties condemned the launching of the ground war even after Iraq's acceptance of the Soviet proposals for a peaceful resolution of the Gulf conflict. The MP's also held a meeting in front of the U.S. Embassy, which was addressed, among others, by Mr. V.P. Singh, Mr. Samar Mukherjee, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, Mr. Nuni Bhattacharya, and Mr. A.K. Ray.

President's Rule in Tamil Nadu, Kashmir Approved

BK2602130691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The Raja Sabha [Upper House] has approved without debate the proclamation of president's rule in Tamil Nadu. Barring a handful of members, the opposition was absent from the house when the resolution was moved and passed. The opposition had walked out earlier, protesting against the prime minister's refusal to table the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] report on telephone tapping. Moving the resolution, the commerce minister, Mr. Subramaniam Swamy, said president's rule was imposed in Tamil Nadu in view of certain facts that were in the knowledge of the government.

The house also approved the continuation of president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir for a further period of six months. Moving the resolution on Jammu and Kashmir, the finance minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, said the situation in the state was not conducive for holding the elections now. He said the governor in his report to the president said the activities of Pak-trained militants, though reduced, continue.

Iran

President Says Invaders 'Devouring Each Other'

LD2602173991 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Graduation ceremonies for military university ground units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were held this afternoon, and were attended by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave a speech, in which he said: We do not agree with invasion and the infringement of other peoples' rights. However, we will defend our holy values with our lives. Therefore, we must be strong, so that others are never tempted to invade Islamic Iran. God will surely defend us in this struggle. You are today witnessing God's hidden blessings, and you can see that God the Almighty is punishing all those who were guilty of invading your country. They are devouring each other like wolves. [passage omitted]

IRNA Cites Newspapers on Gulf War

LD2702091791 Tehran IRNA in English 0822 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27 IRNA—An Iranian daily Wednesday regarded Saddam Husayn's refusal to renounce claim on Kuwait as a mistake and called on the Iraqi regime to give up its claims about Kuwait before it faces complete destruction.

The English daily "TEHRAN TIMES" in its editorial said that the world should burn in war if the old historical claims were to be regarded as basis for determining borders.

The paper said that the Iraqi president should by now have learned a good lesson from the Persian Gulf developments which led to deployment of the alien forces in the region.

The editorial added that Saddam should not endanger the interests of the regional countries just for "his desire to become a hero."

Meanwhile, another English daily "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" said that the killing of innocent Iraqi civilians and the massive air attacks on non-military targets by the allied forces disclosed the real aims of the U.S. in this war which is destruction and disintegration of Iraq.

"At this crucial juncture, Bush will be committing a grave miscalculation if he does not stop the hostilities," said the daily adding that "other parties involved like the United Nations and the countries comprising the U.S.-led coalition must realize that the true spirit of the UN resolutions calling for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait has been overstepped and disregarded."

U.S., Allied Role in Peace Prospects Viewed

LD2602144491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear listeners. With the command issued by Saddam Husayn regarding the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and its public announcement in a radio speech two days into the ground battle, Iraq has at this stage effectively retracted its claim to sovereignty over Kuwait. Although Saddam's acceptance of the need to pull out of Kuwait had followed a lethal delay—and the Iraqi leader could have accepted before, by virtue of all the reasoning he now uses to to justify his pullout from Kuwait—nevertheless within its own terms of reference, it can yield fresher perspectives toward the termination of the war, as long as the other protagonist does not harbor any desires beyond that of liberating Kuwait.

The White House rejected in its initial reaction this change of policy by Iraq without its acceptance of the entire Security Council resolutions. it is evident, however, that according to the Iraqi pledge, Kuwait will be free of Iraqi occupation by the end of the day. Iraq's delay in agreeing to withdraw from Kuwait has entailed and will continue to entail unpleasant consequences for the region, the least of which [as heard] has been the killing of the individuals and the destruction of the infrastructures of the two countries of Iraq and Kuwait, and a great section of the wealth of the Islamic world has also come under the target of destructive operations.

If we add the cost of the future reconstruction to these calculations, the extensive volume of the losses incurred as a result of the mistake of invasion of Kuwait and of the invitation of the alien forces to the region will to some extent become apparent. In addition to material losses, its political and social consequences constitute the unseen repercussions of the war. In fact, by making his strategic error [preceding word in English], Saddam provided the major powers with the opportunity to designate the political destiny of a great number of the regional countries, presenting the region with gloomy prospects. The negative repercussions can to some extent be lessened by foresight and the adoption of a rational and comprehensive policy by the countries of the Persian Gulf region.

While this Iraqi development can open the way to a series of antiwar activities, hence freeing the country from the continuation of the lethal trend of war, nevertheless, the stances hitherto adopted by the allied front have not been very hopeful. Meanwhile, the Security Council has convened yet another session in the course of the past two days, the last session of which was devoted to examining developments in the war and the Soviet proposal in respect of a cease-fire. If the appearance of a new opportunity is not met with a positive resolve on the part of the United States, it will continue to lead to further escalation of the critical conditions in the region, especially since France has again reaffirmed its objective for participating in the war, which it limits to the liberation of Kuwait, while the United States has emphasized the issue of the elimination of Saddam from the seat of power in Iraq as one of the political objectives of the current war.

With the destiny of Kuwait becoming clearer in the seven-month long crisis, it seems that negotiations over the final point of the war are gradually gathering momentum within the allied front, while their outcome in terms of the continuation or the termination of the war will continue to affect the Muslim people of the region now and in the future, and if this assumption is correct, then the U.S. efforts aimed at the total exploitation of the future of the region can potentially intensify the outbreak of discord among the allies. In any case, with the lessening of the flames of war, the center of political efforts will once again take an active role in drawing the final lines of the crisis, while entailing a series of arguments, the results of which will appear in the ensuing resolutions of the Security Council.

Opposition Radio Condemns U.S. War Aims

LD2502220791 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] American leaders finally overlooked all international efforts made in the past few days to halt the continuation of the war. Last night, under circumstances when there were [word indistinct] potentials and high possibilities to prevent the continuation of war and the start of the ground war, the White House dashed all these efforts into the ground. George Bush issued the order for the start of the ground war. The American President pushed aside all hopes for a cease-fire—which had been building up in the last few days. America did not accept the Soviet peace plan, despite the fact that this plan met all necessary conditions for the fulfillment of the Security Council's resolutions. The American leaders' reasons for rejecting this plan were not at all convincing and only served to direct public attention to the sinister objectives which America had tried very hard to cover, under claims that Kuwait must be liberated and its territorial integrity restored.

The behavior of America and Britain in the face of peace initiatives during the past two days has been completely defensive and (?full of justifications). Their reaction demonstrated their blatant decision to continue the war. George Bush's ultimatum yesterday was only to divert public opinion from the Soviet peace plan. George Bush did his best to prevent the world community from accepting the emerging peace initiatives. Only several hours more were needed for the Security Council to come up with another version of the approved Soviet plan and America's demands and thus prevent the start of the ground offensive. But George Bush issued the orders for the start of the land war so that the peace plans would fail. The Soviet peace plan was supported by almost all the world, including Italy and France, who are among the forces participating in the multinational coalition. America, Britain and Israel alone were those that opposed it.

America did not accept peace because it wanted mastership over the world, because it wants to control the task of determining the future of Iraq and the future of the region. America, in its ultimatum yesterday, wanted Saddam to surrender. It did not want the liberation of Kuwait. Now it wants to achieve its objectives at the cost of the blood of tens of thousands of human beings and the destruction of all of Kuwait and Iraq. But which of these conform to the twelve resolutions of the Security Council, which America claims to be carrying out?

The path that America is following is a tragic and bloody path. It is a criminal and aggressive path. When American coffins reach American homes by the thousands—when there was a real opportunity for having stopped

these killings—then George Bush will see the fruits of his crazy selfishness and ambition for mastery. If America and Saddam Husayn shared responsibility for the tragedies and crimes that have been committed to this point in the war, the responsibility for all the tragedies and the bloodshed after this morning will rest with America and America's leaders alone.

Events of the past two days around the crisis in the Persian Gulf demonstrated clearly to the people of the world that in the White House there are people who lead America, and who have no more of a sense of responsibility than the criminal Saddam. This is how history will judge it.

Central Bank Governor Discusses Exchange Rates

LD2602233691 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Mr. Mohammad 'Adeli, governor of the Central Bank, during a speech in the Tehran University economics department, described the policies on currency reserves and its effect on the economy of Iran. Thirty percent, or 63 billion dollars, of foreign currency reserves of 189 billion dollars have been allocated to investment during the past 12 years.

He added that following the implementation of new economic policies, the inflation rate in the year starting 21 March 1988, was 28.5 percent, in the year starting 21 March 1989 was 17.4 percent, and in the first nine months of this year was 7.3 percent. Raw production increased by 4 percent during the previous year.

Administrative interferences have led to diversions, including financial imbalance and the disruption of consumption models.

Mr. 'Adeli added that over 80 percent of the country's industry is state-owned and spoke of the centralization and extreme bureaucracy arising from that. He said the aims of the new currency policies are the creation of balance concerning this matter, the reduction of liquidity, increase in production and the floating of exchange rates in a regulated and orderly way.

Next, the Central Bank governor explained the special features of the currency system of the nation and said that multiple exchange rates, exchange rates remaining below the balance point, and administrative supervision lead to deviation in economic affairs. To create monetary balance, measures such as single pricing of goods, bringing the price of certain goods to balanced rates and the floating of goods in the competitive sector have been taken. These measures have had four characteristics—extrication from currency allocation, disengagement of goods from supervision, uniting distribution and production centers and an end to state-controlled distribution and pricing.

Concluding his speech, he stressed that the currency policy of the country during the previous year was aimed at achieving a single exchange rate and hoped that with the aid and participation of the people, their participation in investment and production, and a reduction in restricting administrative regulations, the country could accelerate economically towards achieving balance.

Seminar on Problems of Press Opens 25 Feb

LD2602092391 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—The 1st ever seminar to study the problems of the Iranian press opened here Monday, attended by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami and a large number of veteran newsmen.

In a brief speech to the gathering, Kazim Mo'tamed-Nejad, one of the organizers of the seminar urged Iranian journalists and mediamen to campaign against the cultural domination of the West.

The audience also heard Hoj. Khatami say that the Islamic revolution took shape and emerged victorious under such circumstances that the former regime was wholly under the influence of Western culture and so were some of the so-called intellectuals in Iran.

"In countries such as Iran, the concept of independence and freedom is different from what exists in the West and therefore Western countries are attempting to destroy freedom and independence of such freedom-loving countries as Iran," Khatami said.

"There were 183 publications in Iran in 1367 (March 1988-March 1989). The figure increased by 20 percent a year later," Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance for Press Affairs Mohsen Aminzadeh told the seminar.

He also said the number of active dailies published in Iran rose from 10 in 1367 to 19 in 1369.

Aminzadeh added that the number of monthlies and fortnightlies increased from 92 in 1367 to 138 two years later, or in other words a 47 percent growth.

During 1988-90, he said, 241 permits were issued for setting up new publications and in the last calendar year 94 new publications hit the news stands.

Pakistan

Iran To Sell Arms, Ammunition Worth $50 Million

BK2602130791 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Feb 91 p 10

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 23—Iran has agreed to award a revolving credit of 50 million dollars to Pakistan for the procurement of Pakistani arms and ammunition for her armed forces.

An agreement to this effect has been signed between the two countries as a result of talks the visiting Speaker of the Iranian Majles Mehdi Ali Karrubi, and Gohar Ayub Khan, Speaker of the National Assembly, held here on Saturday.

Announcing the agreement Gohar Ayub in his welcome address to the visiting guest who attended the National Assembly session Sunday and addressed it, disclosed that under the agreement Iran has also agreed to construct an oil refinery at Karachi with a capacity of 120,000 BPD [barrels per day]. He said as the country's total daily requirement of refined oil was only 80,000 BPD, Iran would lift the remaining quantity of oil for its use in the areas adjacent to Pakistan borders.

He said in view of the postwar Gulf situation which is expected to remain fluctuating for a considerable time, the two countries have also agreed to lay a pipeline from Iran to Pakistan for transportation of oil from Iran.

The two countries, he said, have also agreed to lay a railway line from Zahidan to Kirman in order to improve railway communications and similarly the two sides have also agreed to improve the roads linking the two nations.

Gohar Ayub paid glowing tributes to the distinguished guest and said his affection for Pakistan could be judged from the fact that he selected this country for his first ever visit abroad. Similarly the National Assembly of Pakistan had the honour of being addressed for the first time by a foreign dignitary.

Addressing a press conference Karrubi said Iran wanted Pakistan's presence in any security arrangement in the region.

He said that security problems of the region should be tackled by the countries of the region themselves without any external interference.

Replying to a question he said that the United States possessed aggressive nature. "It has used Iraqi occupation of Kuwait as a pretext to come into the area for serving its own interests. [quotation marks as published]

He, however, said that there would be no winner of the Gulf war. He said despite mobilisation of forces in the area it has taken such a long time without any victory. He said prestige of the superpower has collapsed.

He said in case coalition forces moved into Iraq after liberation of Kuwait, the action would evoke strong condemnation.

He said that indiscriminate bombing of Iraqi civilian and cultural places by allied forces would never be forgotten by the Muslim world.

In reply to a question, he said that the Soviet Union had made some concerted efforts to end the gulf war. Its efforts, he said, had some points of strength also. "I personally feel that the Soviets have coordination with the USA, he added. [no closing quotation marks as published]

The Iranian Assembly Speaker said that there should be no change in geographical frontiers of Iraq in the wake of the Gulf war. He said Iran stood for territorial integrity of Iraq and opposed any foreign interference in the region.

He said that Iran would retain its independent neutral stance in the war. Entering of the United States into Iraq would be strongly condemned by Iran. Such a move, he said, would also have consequences in the region.

When asked to elaborate the consequences, he said there would be anger among the people against the United States. The people of Iraq, he said, would get maximum 'incentives' against the United States.

Yaqub Khan Not To Enter Senate Election

BK2602162091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has decided not to enter the forthcoming Senate election. This was disclosed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif while talking to newsmen on board his plane on the way to Beijing today. The prime minister said he has accepted Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's decision reluctantly. Nawaz Sharif said Yaqub Khan made this decision despite Sharif's insistence that Khan not take this step. The prime minister said it is his wish that Sahabzada Yaqub Khan should continue to discharge his selfless and dedicated service which has been recognized both within and outside the country during the past nine years.

Iraqi Decision To Withdraw From Kuwait 'Welcomed'

BK2602163891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed the decision of Iraqi leadership to withdraw its forces from Kuwait to the positions occupied by them before the first of August last year in compliance with the Security Council Resolution 660. This would constitute a major step toward bringing the conflict to an end in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. An official spokesman in Islamabad today noted that the UN Security Council is in process of discussing the latest developments. He expressed the hope that the Council would urgently take the necessary steps to ensure that an early peace returns to the region. He said Pakistan is following the developments closely and will be ready to make whatever contribution was necessary toward this end.

Commentary Urges 'Key Role' for China in Gulf

BK2702102291 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Omar Latif commentary]

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, arrived in Beijing this afternoon on a four-day official visit to the People's Republic of China. The main objective of his visit is to seek China's support for the six-point formula for peace formulated by Pakistan for ending the Gulf War. The initiative launched by the prime minister of Pakistan has found appreciation from the countries he visited earlier in two stages and several other countries visited by federal ministers. A sort of consensus has been emerging on proposals put forward by Pakistan for cessation of hostilities in the Gulf. Consultations with China on the subject bear signficance as she is a great power, a permanent member of the Security Council, and a country staunchly adhering to the finest principles of noninterference and peace.

Relations between China and Pakistan have always been cordial and the process of consultations between the two countries on all the important global and regional issues has been a regular feature. Excellent understanding on almost all issues has been instrumental in the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries. During his present visit, the prime minister of Pakistan would also discuss several other international, regional, and bilateral issues to have the existing understanding strengthened further.

A large difference in ideology of the two countries has not been a hindrance in forging an enviable friendship between Pakistan and China. This has been due to high regard which both countries attach to principles promoting human welfare. No ideology can thrive without thrust on such objectives. Committed to noninterference in internal affairs of other countries and devoted to solve difficulties through negotiations has been a key factor in international relations of the two countries. China's settlement of the Hong Kong issue provides testimony to her commitment to preserve peace. In similar (?higher) traditions, she wants to sort out differences with Taiwan.

Being a close friend of Pakistan, China's support in Pakistan's efforts to bring peace in the Gulf would contribute toward an early success. With this in view, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has gone to China and it is time to combine all forces for peace to assert their soothing influence on warring parties in the Gulf to end the on-going fierce combat. The formula presented by Pakistan deserves careful consideraion by Iraq, the allied powers, the members of the United Nations Security Council and the Islamic ummah [community]. It is time to bring the Gulf War to an immediate end and save mankind from a great catastrophe and divide. No real victory can emerge from it if the backlash (?is reservedly) different than perceived by persons and states engaged in the Gulf hostilities. Once the Gulf War comes to an end, an era of eliminating such hotspots from the global scene should begin. In this China needs to play a key role as it strongly pleaded for peaceful negotiations on the Gulf matters. The steadfast approach and active role played by Pakistan at the highest level when combined should set rolling efforts for global peace in the near future. Palestine, Kashmir, Cyprus, South Africa, and other issues which have been lying in cold storage at the United Nations needed to be attended to and resolved by the UN decades ago. Principles cannot be compromised upon. Defiance of these could lead to genocide and economic destruction.

The present parleys between Pakistan and China could strengthen their strong friendship further. An ideal friendship between the two nations provides a vivid example for steps to follow. China and Pakistan have always upheld principles of the UN charter and others at odds with them need to change their behavior and adopt the policy of live and let others live in peace.

Sri Lanka

Increased Trade Ties With Pakistan Sought

BK2602125691 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The minister of trade and commerce, A.R. Mansoor, has said that Sri Lanka looks forward to increasing the existing trade ties with Pakistan as that country is one of Sri Lanka's traditional trading partners. He said this when the secretary of the Economic Affairs Division of Pakistan, R.A. Akhund, the head of the visiting Pakistani trade delegation, called on him yesterday. The five- member trade delegation is currently in Sri Lanka for the fifth session of the Sri Lanka-Pakistan joint committee for economic cooperation. Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Commerce Ranil Gunatilleke will lead the Sri Lanka team to this session.

Mr. Mansoor told the visitors that the existing friendship between Sri Lanka and Pakistan had paved the way for furtherance of trade in many areas. During the first 10 months last year, Sri Lanka imported goods worth 1,581 million rupees, while its exports were around 1,057 million rupees.

1990 Foreign Investment Reportedly $1.2 Billion

BK2602126091 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The minister of industries, science and technology, Ranil Wickremasinghe, says the government has given priority to promote industries which are competitive and aimed at the foreign market. Addressing the opening session of the investment promotion meeting at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] yesterday, the minister said that foreign investors have been provided the necessary space, facilities, and incentives for this purpose. Its aim was to create the best investment environment in this part of the world. The private sector has now become the engine

of the growth. He added that Sri Lanka was becoming a profit-earning zone in the Indian Ocean.

The director general of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission [GCEC], Nisanka Wijewardene, pointed out that the entire foreign investment in Sri Lanka at the end of last year stood at $1.2 billion. These projects have provided employment to 123,000 persons. He added that the GCEC had created a modern and secure environment for investors.

Maldivian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

BK2302130191 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1038 GMT 23 Feb 91

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 23 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Foreign Minister of Maldives Fathulla Jameel arrived in Colombo today on an official visit.

Foreign ministry sources told LANKAPUVATH Mr. Jameel is scheduled to call on President Ranasinghe Premadasa, Foreign Minister Harold Herath, Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne and other senior ministers.

Confers With Herath

BK2602131091 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Sri Lanka is to establish a trade center in the Maldivian capital of Male to attract tourists. This decision was taken at yesterday's official talks between the visiting Maldivian foreign minister, Fathulla Jameel, and his Sri Lankan counterpart, Harold Herath, at the Foreign Ministry office in Colombo. The director general of the Foreign Ministry, (Nihal Rajaguru), said that discussions dealt with a wide range of subjects, including trade, shipping, aviation, education, and health. Discussions also centered on SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and the Gulf War. The proposed trade center in Male will have a full range of Sri Lankan products to attract Maldivians and foreigners within that country. It will be set up in collaboration with the public and private sectors. Details will be worked out at the forthcoming Sri Lankan-Maldives joint economic commission in April.

The two ministers expressed satisfaction at the past relationship. They recalled the agreement on understanding and cooperation signed in 1987 in which both countries have agreed not to permit the use of their territories by any foreign power. Minister Herath briefed the Maldivian minister on the outcome of the recent nonaligned foreign ministers committee meeting in Belgrade. He said that the date of SAARC summit scheduled to be held in Colombo will be finalized next month. The director of the South Asian Division, (Silvikavi Chetty), was present at the news briefing. The Maldivian minister paid a courtesy call on the president.